

Lots of shared dreams!

- II. **Learning Together: *The Power of Community Planning-Reflections on Planning in Paradise after the Camp Fire***- Barry Long Urban Design Associates (UDA)
<https://www.urbandesignassociates.com/urban-designplanning>

ZOOM MEETING RECORDING beginning with Barry's Presentation:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/Ty0FPeTt2eULjWJaGVVQ-YxRByCniAsVqHhAX_sHgt2gYe8Odgg1B67_nDUPiHoiE7liN5NPnf7zd0.cD6AwNVGadnODhcc

On the morning of November 8th 2018, the Town of Paradise and the unincorporated communities of Concow and Magalia were forever changed by the Camp Fire. It was the most destructive and deadliest wildfire in California history. 85% of Paradise was destroyed. The Town and County immediately affirmed their commitment to rebuild. A generous gift of UDA's planning services was given to the Town of Paradise initiated by Sierra Nevada Brewing Co and continued by the Butte Strong Fund. The Planning process assisted the residents and stakeholders to create a vision for rebuilding their town and their lives.

The Town-led process resulted in a Community Recovery Plan and entailed four steps: • Relieving Pressure • Listening • Testing • Deciding

See the Process HERE <https://makeitparadise.org/road-to-recovery>

Presentation Highlights or Comments Collected from presentation:

- A Story of Resiliency & Adaptation-Rebuilding Paradise
- 85% of town structures were lost.
- Residents were scattered across the entire USA except for North Dakota.
- The fire was November 8th, Barry was invited to meet with the town leadership on December 12th. The group asked him, "how do we rebuild a town?" His answer was that you ask the residents and listen.
- The biggest challenge is "listening without preconceptions."
- All the Town's Council members lost their homes. The Town Hall was damaged, so they met in Chico until it was repaired.
- The City asked that the Recovery Plan be completed in 3 months. It was, but it is almost unheard of to do a Recovery Plan or any City Plan in such a short amount of time. There was a lot of people and organizations that helped make it happen.
- 13,000 homes were lost. To date they have extended 1600 permits and 698 homes have been rebuilt. It's a very slow process and people need time to figure out how they want to live now.
- Funding for the Recovery Plan came from Butte Strong Fund, which was initiated by Sierra Nevada Beer Co. Additional support to the planning process came from FEMA, Chico State, North Valley Community Foundation, Ernst & Young, while the City controlled the contract/process.
- People need to tell their story-Camp Fire story before you can ask people to think of the future.
- Planning started with what are Paradise's Strengths, Weaknesses and Opportunities.
(Intentionally did not include Threats as that had already become clear.)

- All groups were facilitated and there might be 30 groups going at a time.
- They did surveys in person, surveys online, they announced everything as it was happening and it was LIVE on FaceBook.
- Community members were asked to comment throughout.
- The Community came up with **FIVE Goals**: Rebuild Safer; Rebuild business & economy; Rebuild affordably; Rebuild Better and Rebuild Greener.
- Finding the point between Affordability and Safe-Resilience is and was a challenge. The community members were economically challenged, even those who were insured were underinsured.
- PGE agreed to rebuild everything underground.
- A new clean water system had to be created.
- The town had been on septic and all that was damaged, so they decided to get a sewer system set up and created erosion control in the meantime.
- The huge burned standing trees throughout the town were a danger to rebuilding, so they made rules that trees had to come down before rebuilding based on trees within a certain area.
- A housing assessment was done including the surrounding counties so affordable models of housing could be projected.
- A new Town Center design was created.
- The *Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing (NOAH)* was wiped out. Getting clarity on the needs for rebuilding was critical.
- **Social Pin Point- is a community engagement platform** that has interactive mapping and can be used for forums and do surveys. 95% accurate for immediate Spanish translation.

III. Additional Questions, Comments & Dialogue as time allows **Everyone**

1. What is the reality of people returning after a disaster such as Paradise?
 - *1/3 don't return; 1/3 are on the fence about returning; 1/3 decide to return.*
2. What is the time crunch for rebuilding?
 - *Insurance usually allows a 2-year window for getting into a new or building a home.*
3. What ideas have you gleaned about building capacity for rebuilding?
 - *In Paradise, Bank of America offered an empty building that made it through the fire to be used as a Resiliency Center. This became a location for permits to be issued with a turn around of 5 days. Philanthropy assisted in hiring an outside firm to help City and County to expedite the permitting process. FEMA helped staff the Center and there were programs available to help support what people needed.*
4. Contacting residents?
 - *Every residence received a direct mail and were asked to register with the town.*
5. Is it better to have the city and county do one Recovery Plan together?
 - *Butte County wanted to do their own Recovery Plan, which caused confusion for those people living in the unincorporated towns outside Paradise. Some of those residents*

came in to be part of the Paradise Planning process. One Recovery Plan is better than multiple so projects can be aligned and “leaves on the tree can be prioritized between jurisdictions.” (See the Paradise Plan)

6. FEMA’s Recovery Plan guideline is good and aligns with potential federal recovery and rebuilding funding sources.
7. **A Planning process needs to be customized to meet the CONTEXT of the communities/region.**
 - Paradise City Council asked UDA to do the outreach and engagement process with residents. They were understaffed before and it was worse after the with the multitude of demands.
 - A PR firm was hired to manage the message.
 - The Recovery/Resilience Center did the permitting and was the location for services to people.
 - The Town could focus on economic realities and recovery.
 - PGE had its own engine to address their issues.
 - The sewer system was contracted out.
 - The LTRG (Long Term Recovery Group) was based in Chico and served people from all three counties affected by the fire.
 - Planning is a challenge for small towns, it takes resources to create a plan to rebuild.
 - FEMA can’t give funds for planning; FEMA focuses on those who were impacted who are eligible. Areas that feel the impact of the fire but did not experience the loss have to absorb the change without any support unless business and philanthropy step in.

IV. Meeting Adjourned at 2:30 pm

Matt

Resources from Today:

Link to Barry’s slides that are also part of the presentation:

<https://uda.sharefile.com/d-sd78ce76880814b2d8e6ea1fc1cb33fca>

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Paradise Planning Process:

<https://www.urbandesignassociates.com/uda-stories/2019/3/14/make-it-paradise>

Paradise Community Recovery Plan:

https://issuu.com/makeitparadise/docs/2350rptbook_final190624?fr=xKAE9_zU1NQ

Strengthening the Safety Net in Butte County:

https://92834669-3457-4909-bc7c-6e94197d5ac5.filesusr.com/ugd/26589b_7fd90be0abc44c2091b0da902402c8ca.pdf

The Camp fire Collaborative-LTRG

<https://www.campfire-collaborative.org/>

North Valley Community Foundation- Butte Strong Application Sample

https://buttestrongfund.org/public/uploads/images/Butte_Strong_Fund_Grant_Program_Guidelines_5-14-20.pdf

Camp Fire 6-month report:

https://92834669-3457-4909-bc7c-6e94197d5ac5.filesusr.com/ugd/26589b_072478376bdd43fab8b8bb881c4bbf16.pdf

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Wildfire Disaster and Mental Health

<https://www.outsideonline.com/2419314/wildfire-survivors-mental-health-trauma>