



GENERAL PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Miriam Warne Community Building/Chamber of Commerce
14491 Beach Boulevard, Suite A
Westminster, CA 92683
February 9, 2015
6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Ta called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Don Anderson, Gloria Constas, Sergio Contreras, Gilbert Cruz, Owen Eames, April Erazo, Lupe Fisher, Richard Jolly, Mimi Lozano, Gia Ly, Lisa Manzo, Sandra McClure, Tyler Nichols, Helen Ortega, Jamison Power, Patricia Robbins, Laura Sottile Rose, Syed Shah, Tri Ta, Diana Williams

PRESENT: Don Anderson, Sergio Contreras (arrived at 6:45 pm) Gloria Constas, Owen Eames, April Erazo, Lupe Fisher, Richard Jolly, Mimi Lozano, Lisa Manzo, Sandra McClure, Tyler Nichols, Helen Ortega, Patricia Robbins, Laura Sottile Rose (arrived at 6:44 pm) Syed Shah, Tri Ta, Diana Williams

ABSENT: Gilbert Cruz, Gia Ly, Jamison Power,

SALUTE TO FLAG: GPAC Member Robbins led the assembly in the Salute to the Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chair Ta opened public comments.

Michael Vu spoke regarding the large Vietnamese community in the City and suggested the City should name a park and a street after a famous Vietnamese person.

Chair Ta closed public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 8, 2014

Motion: It was moved by Syed Shah, and seconded by Richard Jolly, to approve the December 8, 2014 GPAC meeting minutes, as corrected. The motion carried with three abstentions (Richard Jolly, Gloria Constas, Mimi Lozano).

REGULAR BUSINESS:

- Update on Public Outreach

Associate Principal, Wendy Grant, Place Works, provided an update of the various public outreach efforts and statistics.

Discussion followed regarding the efforts of the General Plan Advisory Committee.

- Review and Comment on Draft Vision Statement

Associate Principal, Wendy Grant, Place Works, addressed the objectives of this meeting including developing a revised vision statement and land use and community structure mapping. She referenced the Draft Vision Statement and its intent making sure that the goals within it are being achieved. She added that public comments will be printed out for the Planning Commission and Council to consider.

Discussion followed regarding the possibility of modifying the vision statement to be less-specific, the diverse community, location of the "Downtown" area, the statement as a vision of the future and not necessarily what exists today and components of the vision statement.

It was noted that the Draft Vision Statement reflects what staff has heard, over the few months, from various sources.

Associate Principal, Wendy Grant, Place Works, suggested considering each paragraph of the Draft Vision Statement and making changes as recommended by GPAC.

Discussion followed regarding the possibility of including "innovative, elected leadership" in the first paragraph, adding a statement about the climate, the vision statement being a statement of what the City wants to be, including a statement that the City "embraces technology", highlighting unique things that the City does, "where new ideas are accepted and implemented" and embracing innovation and technology to move the City forward.

Ensuing discussion pertained to adding a statement about civic leaders engaging innovation and technology, staying "forward thinking", modifying the second paragraph to indicate "neighboring cities" instead of "neighbors", eliminating the term "especially just raised here" on paragraph three, capitalizing on "Little Saigon" and highlighting things that are working that the City wants to continue.

Discussion continued regarding what constitutes "other amenities and programs".

A suggestion was made to delete "that we provide to the local community" of the third paragraph and modify it to state, "that are available". Another suggestion was made to move the statement regarding "and Little Saigon" and add it to the second paragraph, after "Downtown". It was noted that there is value in indicating that the City is trying to be a regional and cultural destination.

Discussion followed regarding the unknown location for "Downtown", whether the destination is regional or local, ensuring the plan is "implementable", reviewing the specific issue later, residential neighborhoods, substituting "including" for "such as" in the fourth paragraph, residents taking pride in their homes, the economy, including "hospitality" in the first sentence in paragraph four, exploring the identification of "business district" later, deleting "sufficiently" from the last sentence in paragraph five, capitalizing on the City's location, deleting "two" from the first sentence in paragraph five in relation to "major freeways", and changing the first sentence on paragraph six to "Our desirable climate and close proximity to the beach, and major freeways provides...".

It was noted that the concept of sustainability and renewable energy is not addressed in the vision statement. A suggestion was made to include that the City embraces sustainability, innovation and technology.

Discussion followed regarding the possibility of reverting to the original recommendation relative to "Little Saigon". It was noted that currently, it has been given second billing to "Downtown" and that the community would like focus on Little Saigon. Suggestions were made regarding changes in the text to reflect same.

Consultants requested that they be allowed to think about addressing the matter and return to the Committee with suggestions.

The Committee reviewed the last paragraph of the vision statement and suggested addressing connectivity and access to facilities.

Discussion followed regarding the residents' use of public transit and the City's extensive transportation network.

- Land Use and Community Structure Mapping Exercise (GPAC members are asked to provide their input on the following):
 - Community Landmarks, Gateways, Activity Nodes and Gathering Spaces
 - Places of Cultural or Historical Significance
 - Established Neighborhoods
 - Areas that Should be Preserved/Protected
 - Opportunity Areas for Focused Land Use Change or Policy Direction

Associate Principal, Wendy Grant, Place Works, reported there may be necessary land-use changes and asked the Committee to work on developing "big ideas". She stated there are some places in the City that should stay the way they are and that future discussion will be on areas that need improvement, noting that there are specific land-use issues that need discussion. This will be the first step in helping identify ideas from Members. She reviewed the various symbols to use for the mapping exercise and provided instructions to the Committee.

Members of the Committee broke into four groups of four and participated in a Community Structure Mapping Exercise.

The Committee regrouped for further discussion.

- Vision Statement Exercise(s)

Associate Principal, Wendy Grant, Place Works, reviewed the changes made to the vision statement.

Reporters from each group discussed the ideas generated by the mapping exercise.

- Next Steps

Staff reviewed next steps including consideration of land uses and potential changes.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the General Plan Advisory Committee, Chair Ta adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m. to a date to be determined.



Mayor Tri Ta
Chairperson

Prepared by:



Art Bashmakian
Planning Manager