

MINUTES

GPAC Minutes

November 8, 2010

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Jay Corbin at 6:02 p.m.

2.0 ROLL CALL

In attendance

Jay Corbin, Pat Flanagan, Paul Smith, Chris Plummer, Nelson Muniz, Jeff Ohlfs, Terrienne Palmer, Lisa Pitts, Steve Whitten

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes were not moved or discussed during the meeting

4.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS

5.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.1 General Plan Goals and Implementation Policies:

Steve Whitten asked if public comment period is over for the General Plan. Vice-Chair Pat Flanagan stated that comments are welcome on the plan.

Paul Smith inquired about the access to the development code and whether we as the GPAC have access to it. Chair Corbin stated that the Development Code update was not being reviewed by the GPAC.

5.2 Draft General Plan

a. Conservation Element

Vice-chair Pat Flanagan expressed disappointment with the “less than complete and descriptive” element created by Hogle-Ireland. Beginning with the purpose statement and including the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The purpose and vision of the General Plan are not carried through to the EIR and the Purpose statement is not speaking to the conservation of natural resources.

The GPAC then moved into the Conservation Element (CO) 1 “Permanent Open Space”. Paul Smith expressed that there seems to be some difficulty with some of the ideas in this element. Jay Corbin discussed clustering development and that it does not create permanent open space. Pat Flanagan stated “the city has no jurisdiction on permanent open space”. Staff suggested an entity could be created with the goal of managing and designating permanent open space and allow for clustering. Then the Development Code could enforce the goals of the General Plan. After much discussion Pat Flanagan read the comments she had made in a previous document change submitted to Hogle-Ireland regarding LU 2.4 Policy “New development will be sensitive to neighborhood context, scale and existing zoning.” With an implementation Measure of “Standards will be developed to avoid architectural extremes that interfere with view shed, conflict with single family residences, or are incompatible with the city’s small town character.”

Steve Whitten—Motion that we accept all of Pat Flanagan’s comments as they stand.

Chris Plummer Seconds—

Discussion— A number of members said that we should look at this with closer eyes.

Terrienne Palmer feels that it is important that she looks at this a bit more.

Motion withdrawn for further discussion.

Steve Whitten Motion to table the discussion of the Conservation Element to later date.

Terrienne Palmer –Seconds

Discussion—Paul likes the direction Pat is going, taking more of an ecosystem approach vs. the endangered species and special status road currently seen in the GP and EIR. Pat Flanagan read the Apple Valley Policy. Stephanie Weigel from the audience provided a state definition of Open Space. Pat would like to see more schedules and define who the responsible agency will be.

Motion withdrawn for further discussion.

Jane Smith from audience stated she liked the Apple Valley piece particularly about view sheds protection. Steve Doult from audience says that sustainability should be used consistently throughout the documents and currently it is neither defined nor used consistently in the Hogle-Ireland documents.

Housecleaning as far as future meetings for the GPAC was discussed. Jay Corbin suggested the GPAC members study the Land Use Element as well as the EIR (portions about land use) and the technical reports. Also read the traffic study for the next meeting. Pat Flanagan suggested the GPAC take a look at Palm Springs “sustainable city” and check out the website related to that designation.

b. Circulation

Discussion about this topic will be had in future.

5.3 Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

Not discussed due to time constraints

5.4 Questions and Comments

Paul Smith made some comments about the EIR page 4.1.1. It states, “There are several scenic man-made resources located in the planning area. The Oasis of Mara, a man-made oasis with palm trees is a scenic resource and historic point of interest in the planning area as well as an entrance to Joshua Tree National” The oasis is not man made.

Terrienne Palmer expressed concern about her fear of not getting this all done in time. Pat said that the typical time is 3 years. Steve Whitten suggested we should prioritize and determine what is important in case we do run out of time. Lisa Pitts suggested we need to work like it can all get done and try our best to accomplish the goals as they are set forth. Pat Flanagan says “it is nonsense to not look at all the information.” This document is to last 20 years.

Steve Whitten inquired about if changes can be made. Staff informed the group 4 times per year for each element.

Paul Smith suggested visiting the airport purchase.

With no more comments...

Next meeting: November 15, 2010, 6 p.m. City Hall Twentynine Palms CA.

6.0 ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:40 p.m., passed by consent.