

MINUTES

GPAC Minutes

February 28, 2011

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Pat Flanagan at 6:02 p.m.

2.0 ROLL CALL

In attendance

Pat Flanagan(Chair), Steve Whitten(Vice-Chair), Marlana Brown, Jeff Ohlfs, Terrienne Palmer, Lisa Pitts, Chris Plummer, Paul Smith,

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 January 24, 2011

Motion by Steve Whitten to accept minutes for January 24. Second by Pat. Passed by consent

3.2 February 7, 2011

Motion to table until next meeting, Marlana Second.

4.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS

Stephanie Weigel... Regional Land use planner wanted to bring to the GPAC's attention what occurred at the last public meeting on Feb 14th. The people at the meeting discussed "community identity separators". This can be seen in the scenic vistas on the preservation overlay map, so basically, the people at the meeting agree with the open space along the city boundary.

5.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) Discuss/confirm GPAC member volunteer responsible to consolidate GPAC comments on various discussion items from meetings

It was decided that Lisa Pitts will consolidate the comments from previous meetings into the form and Pat will help

b) Conservation/Open Space Element

i) GPAC Comments entitled "Conservation/Open Space – Suggested Changes"

Lisa retracts her comments made in a document in an effort not to rewrite the general plan.

Pat Flanagan asked about if or how information from the Community Trails meetings are incorporated into the plan by Hogle-Ireland. Staff stated that the decision about how or what is included is a question for Hogle-Ireland.

Cultural Resources: Lisa thought it would be great to add in "incentives for the property owners to adaptively reuse historic or cultural buildings" Pat agreed, Steve does not like the word incentive as that would be interpreted as money from the city. Ultimately it was found that CO 2.3 meets the intention of Lisa's comment without incentives.

Water Conservation Open Space Goal 3. Chancey Chambers (Public) found a number of issues associated with not using the more recent water report in the EIR. The Draft EIR 4.9 2 – 4.9 4 is based on a bulletin that came out in 2003. Basically "the report is not just out of date it is wrong." The GPAC recommends that Hogle-Ireland review the new document and updated bulletins from the water company.

Looking at CO element 3.1 and 3.12 the GPAC feels these could be combined into one element. Comments were made about the responsibility of education and water saving devices and whether that was not the role of the water company.

CO3.4 GPAC recommends that an education piece is added to the policy in an effort to foster a good relationship with the water district.

CO 3.2 and 3.3 the GPAC decided seemed redundant; As are 3.5, 3.7 and 3.8 which deal with groundwater quality. And 3.6 and 3.10 on recharge. And 3.13 and 3.14 dealing with supply and consumption.

Soils—The GPAC finds that the soils need to be looked at more thoroughly as a natural resources as far as air and water quality. Although soils are not included in the General Plan, but the GPAC would like to see a broader look at what the soils do include with reference to the biological soil crust.

Additional Water comments. The GPAC would like Hogle Ireland to review section III of the current plan and incorporate when possible into the new General Plan. Page CO-41 talks about projected water supply being 30-40 years, but this is not reflecting the new information from the water company.

Also page CO-41 the statement about “The City currently does not have an adopted landscape ordinance and is using the “Let’s Go Native...with our Landscaping” guidelines developed by Twentynine Palms Groundwater Guardian Team. “ This needs to be updated, the city does have a plan, Hi-Desert Landscape “water-wise_ guidelines.

CO3.1 Reword to say encourage rather than require. After discussion, the GPAC agrees it should say encourage via education...

CO 3.9 The Draft plan discusses, expanding sewer service. “We do not have anything to expand” GPAC feels that it should be reworded to say. Cooperate with appropriate agencies in efforts to construct waste water and sewer services to protect groundwater quality.

Historic Land use GPAC suggests a review of the current plan for the city and using the statement from the current plan in replacement of the current draft version of the plan.

Air Quality: Page 52. Pat agrees to add information as per Steve’s comments about air quality values within the park and how that attracts visitors. GPAC recommends that a statement is added about air quality and climate change. Paul Smith wants to be sure that air quality is health, vistas, and plant life. GPAC wants to suggest that information about plant life, fire regimes, and health be added into the air quality section to address some of these concerns.

CO 4.1 and CO 4.2 Suggest rewriting so lay person can understand. Also possibly combine 4.1 and 4.2.

CO 4.3 put in the word local. Develop “local” regulations and procedures to comply with Federal attainment plans.

CO 4.7 talking about requiring developers, is covered by CEQA and an EIR, can this not be removed?

CO 4.11 Suggest adding “equestrian” to modes of transportation. Or instead include language “such as, implying not an exclusionary list but some options.

Let it be noted that any type of vehicular traffic puts dust in the air and this needs to be reflected in the General Plan.

The GPAC would also like to see inclusion or mention of rural road standards. What is the future of dirt roads in Twentynine? Suggest inclusion of dirt roads in the development code to protect the small town and rural feel. This seems against CO 4.4 capital improvement program

Nighttime views: Goal CO 6 Change to Dark Skies. Dar skies bring tourism and quality of life.

Programs such as Sky’s the Limit and the National Dark skies program should be added into the narrative on dark skies in the General Plan. Paul also brought to the GPAC discussion of the University of Denver study that says one of the top reasons people come to Joshua Tree for the dark skies.

The GPAC agrees that the current city development code does not have much teeth to protect the dark skies. Suggested revision if not in the current development code and partner with base which has shown a reduction in the amount of light pollution.

Sustainability Practice CO7: Solar is only mentioned once in the General Plan. GPAC would like to recommend more mention of solar in the General Plan.

GPAC would like to recommend the inclusion of solar and wind energy and put language into the General Plan that “encourages” the use of alternative energy systems.

Jeff Ohlfs’ Comments about the conservation and open space elements are added in their entirety by consensus.

After completing the Open Space Conservaton element, the GPAC discussed schedule... Jeff is not able to attend on March 14th. The GPAC will meet again next week March 7th, then again on March 21st. Next elements recreation, noise and safety.

c) Recreation Element

RE 9 The size of Veterans Park is listed as 6.4 acres. Please check and change the size of the park throughout the document.

RE 10 Theatre 29 is part of Pioneer Park not Luckie Park

RE 10 Check and correct who operates and provides services at the senior center.

Page RE-9 Bucklin Park location needs to add "Highway" to the end of Twentynine Palms in location description.

The table on RE 9 (Table RE-2) the City has acquired a piece of land near Indian Cove that needs to be added to the Park list.

Also the city has no rivers or streams.

From the National Park perspective, any OHV activities, which are not mentioned in the General Plan not encroach on the National Park.

RE-2 The North Access Trail, is drawn across private property needs to be further east. The map is not correct and it should not be across private land. From the Land Use and Recreation perspective, the GPAC feels that it should be made clear what kind of land is involved in the trails acquisition.

d) Noise Element

e) Safety Element

f) Schedule of Future Meeting Dates

g) Environmental Impact Report

i) Supporting EIR Technical Reports

6.0 GPAC MEMBER COMMENTS

We will finish recreation, including OHV discussion along with Noise and Safety.

7.0 ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:59 passed by consent.