

MINUTES

GPAC Minutes

March 7, 2011

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Pat Flanagan at 6:01 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 February 4, 2011

3.2 February 28, 2011

Minutes will be brought back at the next meeting.

4.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS

5.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) General Plan Update Guiding Principles

b) Recreation Element

Jeff wanted to clarify a comment made at the last meeting. The North Connector trail would not connect to the trail on the map as the Connector trails comes out in a different place.

OHV: Steve Whitten brought to the GPAC news that the County has purchased a 100 acre jobba farm near Indian cove for creation of a county park. The 50 acres near the base are not open to the public and serve more as an educational resource then a OHV area. Comments were raised about the damage to an area from OHV usage.

Dan O'brien (Public) had a number of comments about OHV. He wants the GPAC/City to ask people in California City and Lucerne Valley about the positive impacts of OHV to their economy. He said if the OHV riders were given a trail system, they would hold to that system and keep it to 10-25 mph which would keep the noise below 96dB.

Terrienne Palmer would like to see language about OHV in the General Plan.

Cora Heiser (Public) brought up the following points for consideration. The owner of Indian Cove market gets a number of people on their way to Lanfair Valley to do OHV riding. Also Don Benton at Desert Cycle Works gets business from OHVs. She is not sure about the exact advantages vs disadvantages, but these are some people who benefit from the OHV being included. Skateboards have a skate park, why can OHVs not have trails?

Chris Plummer does not disagree or dispute that money will be made with the inclusion of OHV. He just feels that the damage outweighs those benefits.

Pat Flanagan asked for clarification from staff regarding if the GPAC recommends OHV trails be added and the impact that would have on the EIR. Staff said that if it is not currently in the EIR to include OHV, and if the GPAC, Planning Commission, and or City Council wanted OHV, that may mean the EIR would need to be re-circulated.

RE 15 and 17 the maps: Stephanie Weigel (Public) told the GPAC that the maps were created at public meetings and were drawn by citizens. Stephanie feels that any mention of OHV should be separate from the trails. When talking of multiple use trails that is typically non-motorized travel.

Lisa Pitts brought up the difference between a OHV park and PHV trails. From what we have heard, Hogle Ireland, missed the "boat" and did not included OHV in the General Plan and EIR after the City Council decided it should be included.

GPAC recommends a paragraph be included in the General Plan on studying and exploring OHV in Twentynine Palms especially addressing motorized recreation. Paul makes a motion, Steve Seconds. 5-Yes, 2 Abstain, 1 No.

New goal that deals with OHVs (Goal 6- Study recreation opportunities) Add a new goal and policies dealing with study of OHV opportunities.

Possible language:

Goal: Provide recreational opportunities for OHV riders of diverse ages and experience levels (including youth) and OHV visitors in a safe environment.)

Policy: Create an OHV Management Plan that provides regulatory and policy guidance for the City's management of OHV recreation and related activities.

Policy: Cooperate with County, other agencies, and user groups to identify potential OHV opportunities.

Safe routes to School: The map is not clear as to what is existing or which are funded. Possibly change the title of the map to "Existing or Funded Safe Routes to School"

Add language related to potential NEW safe route to school starting at Hatch Road, concern over safety of students in this area.

RE-20 Recreational facilities on the MCAGCC are not accurately reported and many are authorized personnel use only. There are 6 swimming pools. GPAC recommends in addition to the corrections to the base that Hogle Ireland look at the language in the current general plan and incorporate that into the Draft plan when and where appropriate.

Art in Public Places: Pat agrees with Steve that something should be in the recreation element about art in public places. The Draft General Plan does not address one of the guiding principles in the implementation by leaving art out. GPAC recommends that an additional goal be added addressing Art. Randy Council is a great resource for assistance with this topic.

Paul had a question he brought up to the GPAC concerning firing live ammo in the city. There has been discussion in town about a firing range. Current law says you must be 150 yards of a dwelling and not adjacent to or on a roadway. Paul feels this is a Noise and Safety issue. Steve commented that the Planning Commission and City Council are currently looking at standards, and this issue will be addressed in the Development Code.

c) Noise Element

Element NS 1.5 Buyer Renter Notifications. Marlana suggested that it is important to disclose to the community and currently there are a number of comments that come into the base related to the notes.

Element NS 1.3 and 1.5 are similar and should be combined.

Page NS 29- The word that should be used is "ensure" Noise standards are designed to "insure" that new sensitive land uses are designed and constructed so that the noise environment will be acceptable for that land use.

Page NS 31- "MCCGA" change to MCAGCC

Noise Element in General additional examples of "other noises" such as artillery fire, vehicular traffic, and the like".

Page NS-23 add "(EAF)" to the first sentence on the page. "The Twentynine Palms Expeditionary Airfield (EAF), located ..." Then is it appropriate to use the abbreviation later in the document. Also add that this is a special use airspace and it is for military aviation only.

Page NS 1 suggested including language from the current general plan and incorporate it into the draft version. The GPAC agrees with Pat's comment that quality of life is missing from the general plan.

Page NS 31 " city does not have a noise ordinance." The city has a minimal noise ordinance, there is a mechanism to take complaints to court. The GPAC agrees with Steve that a revision of the goals to incorporate the quality of life seen in the comment section of the General Plan. Excessive noise

affects quality of life. Basically one goal should reflect this quality of life issue. Quiet is a natural resource.

Page 29 Noise 3.0 4th line "but provide" should say "did not provide".

d) Safety Element

e) Schedule of Future Meeting Dates

f) Environmental Impact Report

i) Supporting EIR Technical Reports

The EIR do we need to review it? Staff said we are at a point that it is not important, significant changes to the EIR would mean recirculation. Also the tech reports cannot be changed.

6.0 GPAC MEMBER COMMENTS

Pat brought up the question about a potential Brown Act issue with some emails that were circulating about solar. Soon as you start an email conversation it could be conceived to be attempting to achieve collective concurrence. The GPAC took this and will keep an eye out for this in the future.

Tomorrow night, Jose Angel is talking about waste water at 5pm before the City Council meeting.

7.0 ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:37 passed by consent.