



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FULLERTON MAIN LIBRARY, OSBORNE ROOM

MONDAY

MARCH 30, 2009

7:00 P.M.

- CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Stopper at 7:10 p.m.
- PRESENT:** GPAC Members Batinich, Bennett, Durette, Fitzgerald (7:22 p.m.), Griffin, Haley, Heusser, Lambros (7:22 p.m.), Richmond, Savage, and Stopper
- ABSENT:**
Excused: GPAC Members Buck, Bushala, Harrell, Jaramillo
Unexcused: None
- STAFF PRESENT:** Community Development Director Godlewski, Senior Planner St. Paul, Administrative Assistant Pasillas
- CONSULTANT PRESENT:** RBF Principal Community Planner David Barquist
- FLAG SALUTE:** Chair Stopper
- MINUTES:** MOTION made by Committee Member Haley, SECONDED by Committee Member Savage, CARRIED unanimously, that approval of the Minutes of the December 1, 2008 meeting be APPROVED as written.
- MOTION made by Committee Member Richmond, SECONDED by Committee Member Haley, CARRIED unanimously, that approval of the Minutes of the February 23, 2009 meeting be APPROVED as written.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Review and discuss the Draft General Plan Structure Outline

Senior Planner St. Paul described the Draft General Plan Outline Structure, and the detail that had been added since the previous meeting. Staff was requesting the GPAC's comments on the Outline, and also a recommendation to forward the Outline to the Planning Commission for their review and approval.

RBF Principal Community Planner David Barquist explained that staff was looking for the GPAC's overall thoughts, any topics they believed needed clarification, and their thoughts regarding the range of scope and/or content for each topic.

The following comments were received from the Committee (and staff responded where appropriate):

Urban Design:

- Another hurdle for developers.
- Projects already go before the RDRC and PC, why make it more difficult.
- What do we gain? (guideline for developers/homeowners saying the City wants quality developments and what our expectations are)
- The function of government is to keep us safe, not manage every detail (covers the overall way we see the community, not the details).
- Vague, subjective, not mandatory.
- Reluctant to put subjective language in a document that is supposed to set the rules.
- Include under "Land Use" rather than a separate element (stronger emphasis, might get lost under Land Use).
- Difficult to legislate good taste.
- This would give staff a tool to help maintain the character of the neighborhood for plans that are approved over the counter (creates a goal for basic design standards; may expedite over the counter process because developer's will know exactly what the City is looking for).
- This would protect the property rights of surrounding property owners.
- This would put the planning staff in charge rather than the RDRC or PC which are made up of citizens.
- There is an advantage of having a developer go through the planning cycle more than once – a better, quality product.
- Combine Urban Design and Growth Management.
- Urban Design is not to manage growth, but rather to encourage quality development.
- Urban Design addresses aesthetics, whereas Growth Management addresses the compatibility of the infrastructure with growth.
- Already covered under the current General Plan.
- Adding new language to make a stronger statement to the long-term strategy.
- Provides language for planners to use against private property owners; rules and guidelines strong enough to protect the surrounding property owners.
- Urban Design should be included; everyone must work together, the character and values of Fullerton need to be respected.
- Urban Design is a statement of the overarching value.
- Would be concerned if Urban Design, as it is now, was used at the counter by the planners; it needs to be more specific.
- Will become clearer once policies and goals are added.
- Rename "Growth Management".

The following comments were received from the public:

- Agree with staff - developers prefer to have the guidelines up front.
- Projects can still go to RDRC and/or PC for refinement.

- Assertive way of letting residents/developer's know what is expected.

After discussion on "Urban Design", it was the consensus of the Committee to have staff incorporate the comments from tonight's meeting and bring it back before the Committee at the next meeting. The Committee also expressed an interest in reviewing plans with "Urban Design" included.

Mobility

No comments were received from the Committee or public.

Fullerton Economy

- Need to see development and revitalization details before a decision was made (staff would add additional details for the Committee's review).

Fullerton Community

- Do not believe that "not all segments of the City population have an opportunity to participate"; the City reaches out to everyone, and everyone can participate. Should not be included.
- State in the affirmative – i.e. "through meetings, cable television, etc. we encourage community participation."
- Keep it positive – i.e. "The City will continue to make outreach efforts."
- All citizens are invited to participate, but may not want to, or may not feel comfortable doing so.
- "Education" needs to be coordinated with the schools since they are ultimately responsible.
- The library system is included under Education; need to support the library and there is not enough about it under Education.
- Include "passive recreation" (i.e. the lot at the corner of State College and Bastanchury) under Parks and Recreation.
- Why is Education included in the General Plan; the school districts are not a function of local government.
- The library system should be included as an education resource.
- There are opportunities in the City for education that do not involve the schools.
- Fullerton is becoming more recognizable as an education city; needs to be included in the General Plan, but maybe not here.
- This section is more negative than the other sections; needs to be more positive and consistent with the other sections.
- Child Care opportunities already exist in the City; i.e. YMCA, Boys and Girls Club.
- A previous GPAC discussion had come to the consensus that child care was not to be a separate item, but possible addressed under Public Health or Education.
- List topics in a priority order, rather than alphabetically; i.e. Public Safety first.
- Use "partnership" for things the City can not control; i.e. Education.
- Regional Coordination should be included under Community Development (will be carried throughout the General Plan, not as a separate item).
- Public Safety needs to include local, regional and state coordination.
- Public Health does not recognize the health services available in the City.

- Need to address equestrians under Parks and Recreation.

The following comments were received from the public:

- Some citizens may not be involved due to issues such as their work schedule, no available childcare, etc.
- People remark on the small number of people involved, it could be more.
- Opportunity to get people involved in the Richman area, but they may not want to be involved in a high level of decision making.
- Education needs to address those things the City can have an impact on; i.e. physical health, before and after school activities, the library system as an educational support.
- Leave Child Care as a separate item.

Natural Environment

- The City operates as the water supplier; need to identify the subsets associated with the water supply.
- Some statements appear to be political statements; would like to see more of what the City can actually do.
- Scenic corridors in relation to the connectors; i.e. Bastanchury, Valencia.
- Reflect the real risks and tone down the language.

After discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee to review the revised Draft General Plan Structure Outline at the next meeting, prior to staff taking it to the Planning Commission and City Council for approval.

AGENDA FORECAST

The next meeting was scheduled for April 27, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fullerton Main Library.

STAFF/COMMITTEE COMMUNICATION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Stopper adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.