

General Plan Advisory Committee

Meeting #7

August 27, 2019

S U M M A R Y

Introduction

On Tuesday, August 27th, 2019, the City convened the seventh meeting of the General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC). The focus of the meeting was to elicit input about the emerging vision and guiding principles for Commerce.

The following is a summary of the Committee's discussion.

Emerging Vision

Ms. García introduced Commerce's emerging vision and community values that incorporate the feedback from the GPAC and this summer's community engagement events. She facilitated a discussion to confirm the vision and guiding principles. The GPAC members provided a variety of comments on the overarching vision and provided ideas for consideration in the General Plan update.

Circulation and Connections

- Improve and strengthen transportation connections to from the southern (residential) side of Commerce to the area on the north (Citadel).
 - Consider constructing a pedestrian bridge from Ferguson Drive over the rail yard.
 - Improve mobility at Ferguson/Goodrich/Atlantic to address the bottle neck. This causes access and safety issues for the residents in the Ferguson neighborhood.
 - Plan intentional connections along Atlantic Boulevard, Telegraph Road, and Eastern Avenue for residents and visitors.

- Plan for increased traffic as a result of all proposed development projects.
- Reexamine and reestablish Goodrich Blvd's full connection into the Mix Master.
- Increase the amount of parking in residential areas.
- Consider shared parking programs in residential areas.

Housing

- Create more housing in Commerce.
- Make housing more affordable and stable.
- Emphasize affordability and stability
- Consider options to retrofit motels along Atlantic Boulevard, possibly for affordable housing or apartments for the homeless.

Economic Development

- Incorporate the daily workforce into the community fabric.
 - Incentivize workers to stay after 5 pm to shop.
 - Give workers a vested interest in Commerce's amenities and services.
- Bring a supermarket into Commerce.
- Balance support for Commerce's "legacy businesses" and new businesses.

Services

- Provide quality medical care for Commerce residents.
 - Build Commerce a medical facility.
- Look at the Altamed medical facilities as an example.
- Bring amenities into Commerce that engage and activate the local community.
- Provide more amenities after business hours.

Community Health

- Mandate and enforce healthy noise and pollution levels.
 - Consider making Commerce carbon neutral.
 - Plant more street trees that produce oxygen.
- Update and upgrade Commerce's local businesses.
 - Provide City-sponsored programs to help local businesses operate "cleaner and greener."
- Build community gardens in Commerce.

- Consider cooperative ownership models for Commerce businesses as a strategy to implement green practices while addressing the needs of community members in need.
 - Bring thrift shops into Commerce.
- Create innovative solutions to address issues related to community members experiencing homelessness.
 - Consider policies that partner with Commerce industrial businesses for using parking during non-business hours for community members residing in vehicles.
 - Provide services such as bathrooms.
- Consider available uncontaminated land for agricultural uses such as community gardens.

The group had a question regarding the planned improvements for the I-5 project, specifically the schedule. Staff will follow up with other departments to follow up with the group.

Closing

Ms. García summarized the input provided during the meeting and informed the group that Committee would address the community benefits during the September meeting. In preparation she asked the group to think about the types of community benefits that will inform the General Plan Update.

She reminded the group that they can email comments on the previous meeting summary to General Plan team by September 2, 2019. The next meeting will take place on September 24th, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.