

General Plan Advisory Committee

Meeting #8

September 24, 2019

S U M M A R Y

Introduction

On Tuesday, September 24th, 2019, the City convened the eighth meeting of the General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC). The focus of the meeting was to elicit input about the draft vision for Commerce and potential community benefit.

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

Draft Vision and Guiding Principles

Ms. García introduced Commerce's draft vision and guiding principles that incorporate the feedback from the GPAC, the community survey, and this summer's community engagement events. She facilitated a discussion to confirm the vision and guiding principle components and explained that these drafts will lead to the vision statement and guiding principles. The GPAC members provided a variety of comments on the overarching vision and guiding principle statements and provided ideas for consideration in the General Plan update.

- Ensure the vision has a consistent active voice
- The term "green" should be defined
- The statement regarding transportation network should improve air quality.
- Improving human health is important and the statement related to addressing noise and pollution should be bolder

Community Benefits

Landscaping

- Include trees that will oxygenate and provide canopy
- Use best environmental practices for public landscaping (non-harmful products and xeriscaping)
- Consider “green/living walls” in publicly visible spaces

Plazas and Open Spaces

- Consider nontraditional seating areas in medians
- Use visual examples:
 - Pasadena Paseo
 - Portland mall - Multi-modal, active transportation

Meeting Places

- Include meeting spaces on rooftops
- Require visible, welcoming privately owned public spaces

Bikeways

- Require bikeway access to and from private developments

Housing

- Provide affordable housing for both low- and middle-income residents, including workforce
 - Use community’s median income to determine respective goal amounts for affordability
 - Build cooperative housing for disabled and veteran residents

Local Restaurants

- Allow small storefronts, pop-up businesses, and kiosks
- Add a coffee shop near the Metrolink stop/parking lot
- Use good examples:
 - Anaheim GardenWalk
 - Mercado—stalls for mom-and-pops with a shared commercial kitchen
- Encourage developer to implement programming

- Developer should contribute offsite amenities (commercial kitchen or open space) if unable to provide onsite

Parking

- New housing/dwelling units will increase the need for traffic and parking solutions
 - Consider bundled/shared parking requirements between developers. Use examples like New York.
 - Cars are projected to get smaller and smaller in the next ten years

Housing

- Create an accessory dwelling unit (ADU) policy

Railways

- Improve communication between residents and Union Pacific railway

Closing

Ms. García summarized the input provided during the meeting and informed the group that Committee would discuss land use during the September meeting.

She reminded the group that they can email comments on the previous meeting summary to General Plan team by September 30, 2019. The next meeting will take place on October 22nd, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.