City of Santa Ana General Plan Advisory Group
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
City Hall, Ross Annex
20 Civic Center Plaza, Room 1600
Wednesday, May 3, 2017
5:30pm - 7:30pm

1. Introductory Remarks

Principal Planner Verny Carvajal of the Planning and Building Agency welcomed the participants to the fifth meeting of the General Plan Advisory Group and introduced the first General Plan element to be discussed at the meeting: Conservation.

2. Thinking about TOMORROW

Associate Planner Ricardo Soto of the Planning and Building Agency provided a brief introduction to a short clip of the film TOMORROW. The film depicted images and ideas about conservation efforts taking place around the world and how local action can have a global impact.

After the video, Mr. Carvajal and Hassan Haghani, Director of the Planning and Building agency, further discussed conservation, grass-roots movements, and emerging ideas regarding sustainability and conservation.

3. Applying Our Vision, Our Core Values

Mr. Carvajal then discussed the principles, or values, that continually surfaced during the initial stages of the community outreach and during previous GPAG meeting exercises, including the draft vision statements produced by the members. These five principles, or “core values,” are Health, Equity, Sustainability, Culture, and Education. These core values will be discussed and expressed throughout each of the elements and sections of the new General Plan and will become key principles that guide future decision-making. The following descriptions were shared with the GPAG to help define the draft core values:
CORE VALUES:

Health
1. Build a physical environment that encourages healthy lifestyles.
2. Ensure that health impacts are considered throughout the planning process.
3. Actively pursue policies and practices that improve the health of our residents.

Equity
1. Take all necessary steps to ensure equitable outcomes.
2. Expand access to the tools and resources that residents need.
3. Balance competing interests in an open and democratic manner.

Sustainability
1. Promote land use decisions that benefit future generations.
2. Plan for the impacts of climate change.
3. Incorporate sustainable building practices at all levels of the planning process.

Culture
1. Celebrate our differences as a source of community strength.
2. Preserve and build upon existing cultural resources.
3. Nurture a citywide culture of empowered residents.

Education
1. Create a community of lifelong learners.
2. Open up educational opportunities to all residents.
3. Invest in educational programs that advance our residents’ economic well-being.

Mr. Carvajal then discussed how the General Plan document is proposed to be organized into three sections: Built Environment, Natural Environment, and Services & Infrastructure. The Built Environment Section will contain the Land Use, Urban Design & Architecture, Historic Preservation, Mobility, Housing, and Economic Development elements. The Natural Environment Section will contain the Open Space, Conservation, Safety, and Noise elements. The last section, Services & Infrastructure Section, will contain Community Facilities and Safety elements.


Senior Planner Melanie McCann of the Planning and Building Agency discussed the Conservation Element and topics that are required by California law to be addressed in the element. Those topics include water resources, soils and minerals, agricultural resources, wildlife/biological resources, scenic vistas, air quality and climate, and energy.

Ms. McCann then discussed how the draft goals and policies for the Conservation Element were developed. The process included staff review of the existing General Plan goals and policies “best practices,” the Santa Ana Strategic Plan, affirmative statements and draft vision statements prepared by the GPAG; along with other recommendations.
made by community groups such as Santa Ana Building Healthy Communities. The results included four draft goals and 39 policies.

The GPAG was then divided into small groups, and members were asked to review and critique the draft goals and policies using a “POV” approach; an approach by which each member critiques the policy from the perspective, or point-of-view, based on the group they represent within the community. Each small group included a City staff facilitator to record the comments and feedback to refine draft Conservation Element goals and policies.

5. **Next Steps**

Mr. Carvajal concluded the meeting by sharing that the next Advisory Group meeting will be on May 17, 2017, and will focus on the Open Space and Safety Elements of the General Plan. Mr. Carvajal then provided a handout listing GPAG future meeting dates and anticipated agenda topics and informed the Group that there will not be any meetings scheduled in the month of August. Mr. Carvajal also requested that members continue to keep an open line of communication with City staff regarding scheduling conflicts for future meetings.

**List of GPAG Member Attendees:**

Claudia Arellanes, Downtown Business Owner  
Phil Bacerra, Planning Commission  
Marlene Buitron, Youth Commission  
Ekta Naik, Alliance Development  
Kathi Davis-Bowman, WisePlace  
Peter Katz, Santa Ana Communication Linkages Forum  
Nancy Mejia, Latino Health Access  
Laura Morfin, Former Community Redevelopment and Housing Commission  
Soledad Valentin, Multi-Family Housing Representative  
Orin Williams, Santa Ana Unified School District  
Berry Cottle, C & C Development  
Tish Leon, Senior Advocate-Downtown Neighborhood

Absent: Richard Chiarini, Industrial Business Owner  
Lynette Guzman, Parks and Recreation Board  
Gilad Salmon, Environmental and Transportation Advisory Committee  
Isaac Michaca, Santa Ana Building Healthy Communities  
Ken Nguyen, Planning Commission  
Beatriz Mendoza, Planning Commission

Note: the PowerPoint presentation used for the meeting is available at [http://www.santa-ana.org/generalplan/default.asp](http://www.santa-ana.org/generalplan/default.asp)