Meeting Minutes
General Plan 2040
Community Working Group

Thursday, January 3, 2013
5:30 PM
Tempe Public Library
Meeting Room 2
3500 South Rural Road, Tempe, Arizona

CWG Members Present	**Audience Members**
JoLyn Gibbons Alan Beaudoin Don Cassano Ryan Guzy Cole Hickman Gary Johnson Ed Mitchell Michael Myrick Celeste Plumlee Marie Provine Julie Ramsey Lisa Roach Joe Salvatore Fred Warren Don Watkins Steve Wegner Woody Wilson	Benjamin Shaw Karyn Gitlis Kate Hanley
CWG Members Absent	**Staff Present**
Jeremy Capello Lee Armando Espinosa Brad Graham Melody Moss	Nancy Ryan Shawn Wagner Maja Aurora Oddvar Tveit Eric Kamienski Bonnie Richardson Grace Kelly Lucy Morales

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The meeting was called to order at 5:33PM.

Item 1 Welcome and Introductions
Joe Salvatore (CWG Chairman) introduced himself and asked each CWG member to do the same. City Staff also introduced themselves to the CWG meeting.

Item 2 Approval of the Meeting Minutes from December 18, 2018

Dennis Webb noted that he was present at the meeting. Joe Salvatore called for a motion to approve the minutes with the change. Motion was made by Don Cassano and seconded by Don Watkins. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Item 3 Public Appearances

Chairman Salvatore called for public appearances. There were no requests to speak during public appearances. Joe Salvatore suggested that the CWG member seek friends, colleagues and neighbors to attend these meetings so that they can get well rounded opinions on the issues that the CWG discusses.

Item 4 Sharing feedback from Community and Boards or Commissions

Nancy Ryan noted that this will be a standing item on the agenda that allows for the CWG to share any comments from the community, or boards and commissions. Ed Mitchell noted that the Commission on Disability Concerns is about to undertake a survey which may be complete after the CWG completes its meetings, and he wanted to know how that might work. Nancy suggested disability issues be shared based on what they know now and as the results of the survey become known there will be an opportunity up until it goes to City Council to include changes. Marie Provine shared that that repurposing of buildings such as re-use of school facilities that have been closed should be considered by the General Plan.

Item 5 Conservation Chapter

Nancy Ryan highlighted the portions of the General Plan would be reviewed tonight.
At the start of the review there will be a discussion of key issues for that topic, and then continue with review of the specific Goals, Objectives and Strategies for each topic. Nancy noted for Conservation the topics will be energy resources, land remediation, wildlife habitat, floodplain management, air quality improvement, noise reduction, ambient temperature, water, stormwater and wastewater.

The CWG worked through the Goals, Objectives, and Strategies for energy resources, land remediation, wildlife habitat, floodplain management, air quality improvement, noise reduction.

Comments included discussion related to:
Energy Resources

- Recognition efficient use of energy does not necessarily relate to cost of energy, clean energy or reduction of greenhouse gasses. Need to include a reason why its beneficial to conserve energy (environment).
- Consideration of dark sky objective
- Balance of public safety and dark sky
- Organizing strategies to reflect whether they relate to a City function, business related, residential related or to all the above.
- Energy efficiency (energy code) should be required of residential renovations. Buildings and remodels need to be more energy efficient.
- Can we require energy efficient buildings? It would increase cost of development.
- Goal to reduce environmental cost of energy as well as monetary cost of energy
- Currently up-front about cost savings, need to add environmental aspect
- Include in objectives reduce damage of coal and GHG. Need to measure Green House Gas emissions
- In Tempe, there are two plants generate power
- Focus on Tempe's responsibilities for the entire population or the governmental body.

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- Energy audits are a way to understand how the building is performing and what we can do to make it even more efficient
- For Objective ER1 change to include "...and enhance environmental quality"
- Would like to limit streetlights to provide Dark Sky benefits.
- Darkness can come into conflict with Public safety. City enacts dark sky requirements for lighting
- To address environmental concerns
    - Include "Promote Clean energy"
    - Add "reduce environmental impact through" as header to Energy Objectives ER1, ER2 and ER3.
- Need to have stronger verbs for some objectives.
- Monitoring should be a part of the strategies. Monitoring is a critical component and should be done.

Land Remediation

- If the Comprehensive Environmental Quality Plan was not accomplished in the past 10 years, is it important and should it be required?
- Guidelines for brownfields are a function of ADEQ and EPA
- Support redevelopment of sites with environmental contamination to achieve the best land use for the community.
- A Benchmark report General Plan Goals and Objectives was required to be submitted to the Department of Commerce on an annual basis. However, that Department no longer exists and the report has not been submitted. Is anyone asking for it? If not, omit that from the objectives/strategy.
- As opposed to Tempe developing a comprehensive environmental quality plan, defer to ADEQ regulations/requirements.
- Important to keep the remediation in the plan because we do have two (2) brownfield areas.
- Storm retention pit in south Tempe near I-10 (was a barrow pit) has to maintain character.
- CWG members questioned Strategy 1 and said requested to remove Strategies 1 and potentially 2.
- Keep Strategy 3 & 5.

Wildlife Habitat Management

- Word changes to the Objectives were suggested
- Wildlife species and where they have been spotted
- Important to recognize the habitat area near Tempe Marketplace as a transitional habitat

Floodplain Management

- Roles the city and Flood Control District play in management
- Location of flooding areas other than Salt River and Indian Bend Wash
- Marie asked about Strategy 3. Majority of Flood Management is handled by Maricopa County Flood Control and City has a staff person as Flood Control coordinator.
- Eric Kamienski said that the Roosevelt Dam expansion added Flood Control storage in the 1990s. Major flooding danger would likely be from Verde River branch below Roosevelt Dam.
- New steel dam proposed, so flooding would not be as much of an issue.

Air Quality

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- Modify the goal to focus on minimizing air pollution
- Recognition that air quality is not a Tempe only solution, and that State and County agencies establish and enforce regulations.
- Encourage biking and walking as well as mass transit for residents and visitors
- There should be incentive to plant trees; and to better publicize the tree planting programs of Tempe and other groups (SRP) Pollen and plant allergens in landscape choices are an issue; Tempe limits olive trees.
- Why is an Environmental Quality Plan needed?
- Recommend adding "encourage Mass transit" to Strategy 9
- Strategy 11 is the responsibility of county or state, not city
- Encourage neighborhood and citizens to plant native trees to improve air quality and provide shade
- Incentivize and publicize tree planting.
- Staff noted that other cities have programs for tree assessments, consider climate change, air temperature/heat island and environmental quality
- SRP has a tree planting program
- Some trees better than others
- Strategy 14 & 6 are redundant – combine them
- City employees should set example by using transit/light rail/carpool
- There is a trip reduction program in place to encourage city employees to ride transit/ carpool/bike
- City vehicles used to service parks, Tempe Town Lake, City hall, all short trips should be done by bike, golf cart, vehicles that create less emissions.

Noise Reduction

- Emphasis should be on controlling noise to protect those who live and work here, not just maintaining noise levels.
- What are noise impacted areas and should sound improvement programs like were available for airport mitigation be available
- Efforts to control loud parties and elimination of train horns, has made a large improvement in the north Tempe residential area.
- Goal should read "Control noise levels to protect living, working and learning....."
- Strategy 5, 6, and 8 address noise. Suggested get rid of Strategies 5 & 6. Keep Strategy 8.
- Strategy 15 is vague. A CWG member noted Strategy 15 was to address a former issue from a decade ago dealing with the airport. Federal government funded a program to help homeowners with windows and jets are less noisy today.
- CWG member recommended for staff to acknowledge accomplishments and successes e.g. Quiet Zone with Rail road. Train no longer sounds in residential areas. Instead of just deleting a strategy/ goal and not addressed it, should address it.

A CWG member suggested that a re-cap of General Plan 2030 accomplishments would help the group understand what was completed, what remains to do and what benchmarks would apply. It was acknowledged that a re-cap would be provided to the CWG for each GP chapter. Nancy Ryan said the Growth Management law requires that an annual report identify the accomplishments. Dissolving of the AZ Department of Commerce currently prevents that statewide annual review.

Discussion turned to the best way to progress through the General Plan, and how to best focus the CWG efforts on the big vision. Consensus was reached that in future meetings the large group would break into smaller work group activities for the topics.

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A committee member suggested that staff provide background information about topics ahead of time, so they can be better prepared for the discussion and analysis.

Item 6 Open Space, Recreation and Cultural Amenities Chapter
Nancy noted that discussion of this would be continued to the next meeting

Item 7 Public Services and Facilities Chapter
Nancy noted that discussion of this would be continued to the next meeting

Item 8 Revised Syllabus and Meeting Dates
Nancy Ryan shared the potential meeting dates with the CWG. With the significant work to be accomplished it was suggested to hold the meetings for 3 hours rather than add additional days to the schedule. The consensus was to hold the remaining meetings on the 4th Wednesday of each month, from 6 to 9PM. It was suggested that CWG members need to have the material in advance, 2-3 weeks of lead time. Nancy said she will revise the packet, send it out earlier and re-tool the meeting format for next meeting.

Nancy announced that the 2nd public Open House meeting for General Plan 2040 will be on January 22 from 5 to 7PM at the Tempe History Museum, and that all CWG members are encouraged to spread the word to others as well as attend.

Item 9 Wrap up and Closing
Nancy said a question from the prior meeting was raised by a CWG member about more demographic information - income, housing, ethnicity, so in the packet was more data from the US Census bureau for 2011.

A CWG members asked about their role and how their suggestions going to be implemented? Nancy noted that the comment will be used to create and influence the Draft Plan. The material they have reviewed is for discussion. A Draft Plan will be prepared for the CWG with the opportunity to see how their comments have been folded into the plan, as well as, review and make comments on the Draft. After that the Draft Plan goes to the community, online and in presentations and later to public hearings (September/October) at the Development Review Commission and to City Council (November/December).

Item 10 Future Meeting Date
The next CWG meeting date will be February 27, 2013, from 6 to 9PM at the Tempe Library Tempe Learning Center on the lower level.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Prepared by: Nancy Ryan
Reviewed by: Lisa Collins

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Nancy Ryan
Community Development

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