CITY OF PRESCOTT

City of Prescott
General Plan Committee

June 28, 2023 | 2:00 PM
201 N. Montezuma Street
Council Chambers, 3rd Floor
Prescott, AZ 86301

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gambogi called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Ted Gambogi, Chair
Terry Sapio, Vice-Chair
Andre Carman
Mary Frederickson
Ralph Hess
Jim Huffman
James McCarver
Don Michelman - arrived at 2:49 p.m.
Rod Moyer
Deborah Thalasitis - excused
Gary Worob

3. OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC

The City of Prescott welcomes public engagement and residents may comment & address the Committee on matters NOT included on the Agenda during the Call to the Public. Please complete a speaker card and submit it to the City Staff prior to the meeting being convened. Speakers are limited to four (4) minutes, and the Call to the Public will be limited to forty (40) minutes in total. Citizens are limited to addressing the Committee four (4) times regarding the same topic.

Please Note: Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.01(H), members of the Committee may NOT discuss items that are not specifically identified on the Agenda and, therefore, interaction will be limited to the following:

1) Responding to criticism
2) Requests to staff to investigate & report on the matter
3) Request that the matter be scheduled on a future agenda

Member of the public J. D. Greenberg addressed the Committee and advised she has been active in open space and wildlife issues for the past 20 years and looks forward to the changes the General Plan could bring but was disappointed to find out it really does not have teeth. She would like to figure out a way to get General Plan action items into charter amendments and make permanent changes for the city.

Member of the public Warren Tracy spoke as a representative of the Gail Gardener Ad Hock Committee and all neighborhoods in the 1997 General Plan and wanted to make it a matter of record that those neighborhoods were included based upon the benchmarks that were set back in 1997 that they would be included in the General Plan.

4. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of May 31, 2023 Meeting Minutes.

MOTION BY MEMBER WOROB FOR APPROVAL OF THE MAY 31, 2023 MEETING MINUTES; SECONDED BY VICE-CHAIR SAPIO: (9 - 0)

B. Discussion and Presentation From the Library Department.
Prescott Public Library Director, Roger Saft, presented to the Committee (presentation attached).

Member Huffman asked about potential locations for a branch library.

Mr. Saft advised they have looked at a number of locations with the Friends of Prescott Public Library but nothing has been decided.

Member McCarver questioned what has caused a decrease in funding for the library.

Mr. Saft advised the Yavapai County Free Library District has allocated less and less to the Prescott Library.

Member Moyer asked about the cost of digital services.

Mr. Saft responded that the publishing companies charge a lot more to a library for digital items and they have a specified number of uses allocated to the item, then the item has to be purchased again.

Member Frederickson asked which of the two library funding sources provides the most financial support.

Mr. Saft responded that the city's General Fund provides the majority of the library funding.

Councilman Moore asked how many volunteers the library currently has and can they use more.

Mr. Saft advised he has about 117 volunteers currently, which equals about five (5)full-time employees. The library uses volunteers for behind the scenes functions as much as possible.

Chair Gambogi asked how many employees the library currently has.

Mr. Saft responded that they have 22.5 full-time employees.

C. Discussion and Presentation from the Airport Department.

Airport Director Robin Sobotta presented to the Committee (presentation attached).

Member Michelman arrived at 2:49 p.m.

Member Carman asked if the runway is currently set up for 75 seat aircraft.

Dr. Sobotta responded that it depends on the time of year; because Prescott can be hot and it is a high-elevation airport, there are times that an aircraft will have to operate with limitations.

Vice Chair Sapio asked if there was room on the crosswind runway for an extension.

Dr. Sobotta replied it is not currently planned for an extension and there is some community pressure to close down that runway from both directions for housing needs.

Chair Gambogi asked if a commercial service could take off on the cross runway.

Dr. Sobotta answered that it depends on the size of the aircraft.

Vice Chair Sapio questioned the community desire to see the crosswind runway go away and asked if the crosswind runway, especially if if extended, would give the airport more versatility and also serve as a backup which would enable continued operations in case there is a mishap on the main runway.

Dr. Sobotta replied that the crosswind runway is extremely important, especially for the smaller training aircraft that are more sensitive to the wind, but it would be more valuable to extend the two parallels because only about 18 percent of the traffic currently use the crosswind runway,adding that while it would be helpful for smaller aircraft, it isn't as necessary for the larger commercial service.

Member Worob asked what is the future of noise for the area.

Dr. Sobotta responded that if you move a quarter mile further away from the sensitive communities and you take off, it's going to be much higher and as a result, the impact on those homes underneath will be mitigated. In fact, the aircraft may have already turned into the pattern and not fly over those homes. Being able to extend the runway would be a real advantage to the city, homeowners, and our sensitive community members.

Member McCarver asked who owns the commercial land around the airport.

Dr. Sobotta replied that there are a variety of owners, including the City of Prescott, private owners and the State of Arizona.

Member Worob asked if there are any plans for some kind of transportation mode for the public to get to the airport without driving their own vehicles.

Dr. Sobotta replied there's been some discussion of mass transit and, in fact, the old terminal building could be used as a transit station, but that is something to address in the plan as we move forward.

Vice Chair Sapio asked if the new tower would be open twenty-four hours a day.

Dr. Sobotta answered that currently the tower operates from six am to ten pm, because of the volume of operations the tower is a candidate for another hour of opening.

D. Discussion and Presentation Regarding Materials for the Upcoming Open House Event.

Ms. DeWitt presented to the Committee slides demonstrating the materials and topics that will be available for the public to view and comment on at the upcoming open house meeting in August. The public will have the opportunity to comment on the topics presented and share what they see as strengths and challenges, or topics they are concerned about. If Committee members have additional ideas, they can email them to Ms. DeWitt. Based on the feedback from the Committee members, the boards for the open house will be updated so they can be finalized at the next meeting.

E. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Continuation of a Round Table Discussion Regarding the General Plan Process & Next Steps.

Ms. DeWitt advised the Committee they are continuing the roundtable discussion.

Member Worob provided his feedback on suggested topics for smaller breakout groups: growth, water, transportation, legal and medical.

Vice-Chair Sapio asked member Worob what he meant by legal.

Member Worob replied legal means how do they put legal teeth into the plan.

Member Hess advised he would like some additional information from the city's Legal department on how the smaller breakout groups do not violate open meeting law.

Ms. DeWitt asked the Committee what would be the overall scope for retaining an outside facilitator.

Member Sapio responded that he feels the roundtable set up they have right now is working very well and would like to continue in the same manner.

Member Moyer commented that he is happy with the current meeting format but if additional help is needed from outside the city to help city staff with the General

Plan, then he is supportive of that.

Member Hess advised he missed the September meeting and during that meeting a presentation was made explaining the roles of the Committee members. He advised that now that he has seen that presentation he no longer sees a need for an outside facilitator.

Member Worob added that he thinks staff and the Committee are doing a great job and does not see a need for an outside facilitator.

Member Frederickson left at 5:03 p.m.

5. STAFF UPDATES

Ms. DeWitt advised the Committee that staff workgroups have received the existing plan elements to make updates for their departments.

Ms. DeWitt also provided an update that 284 survey responses have been received and 74 general input questions have been filled out by participants.

6. NEXT MEETING- JULY 26, 2023

Ms. DeWitt advised there will be a water presentation at next meeting and the Committee and staff will finalize the open house materials.

Member Hess suggested having a discussion of the definition of a major plan amendment on a future agenda.

Ms. DeWitt advised that it is a topic in the General Plan and will be discussed.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Gambogi adjourned the meeting at 05:10 p.m.

Ted Gambogi

Ted Gambogi, Chair

ATTEST:

Torey Dawson, City Clerk Specialist