



City of Prescott
General Plan Review Committee

September 27, 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 2:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Ted Gambogi, Chair
Terry Sapio, Vice-Chair
Andre Carman
Mary Frederickson
Ralph Hess
Jim Huffman
James McCarver
Don Michelman - Excused
Rod Moyer - Excused
Deborah Thalassitis
Gary Worob

3. OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC

A. Member of the public, Fred Oswald, spoke regarding concern of sustainability and feels the city has not been operating in a sustainable way for some time. Would like less growth and to make sure the environment is protected for children and grandchildren.

B. Member of the public, Tana Karen, spoke as a member of the Gail Gardner Neighborhood plan group. They are doing an update to the original plan, looking at traffic flow and circulation, impact of Prescott Frontier Days events on the neighborhood, well-being, and safety. She advised the group would like to bring the updated plan to council for hopeful adoption into the master plan. Would like to have the plan renamed Central Westside Neighborhood plan.

Member McCarver asked what the north and south boundaries of that area would be.

Ms. Karen replied to the north boundary would be Iron Springs and the south boundary would be Gurley Street.

Member Hess requested that staff put on a future agenda what the relationship between the general plan will be to neighborhood plans.

Planner Tammy DeWitt responded that will be covered when they discuss the land use unit.

Vice-Chair Sapio asked the speakers what their ideal growth rate would be for Prescott.

Mr. Oswald responded less than half a percent.

4. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approval of the June 28, 2023 Revised General Plan Committee Meeting Minutes.
MOTION BY MEMBER WOROB TO APPROVE THE JUNE 28, 2023 REVISED MINUTES; SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR SAPIO: PASSED (9 – 0)
- B. Approval of July 26, 2023 General Plan Committee Meeting Minutes.
MOTION BY MEMBER HUFFMAN TO APPROVE THE JULY 26, 2023 MEETING MINUTES; SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR SAPIO: PASSED (7 - 1 - 1)
MEMBER HESS ABSTAINED AND MEMBER MCCARVER DISSENTED.
- C. Presentation & Discussion from the Prescott Police Department.

Sergeant J. Shapiro provided a presentation from the Police Department regarding the General Plan.

Member Frederickson asked about the staffing of bicycle and walking patrol officers.

Sergeant Shapiro responded that short staffing contributes to fewer bicycle and walking patrols and vehicle patrols have a higher priority than bicycle and walking.

Member Thalasis asked what the breakdown is of women and minorities that make up the police force.

Sergeant Shapiro stated that currently there are 4 female officers and many different backgrounds that make up the police force.

Chair Gambogi asked what the goal response time is for the Police Department.

Sergeant Shapiro advised he would get back to Chair Gambogi.

Vice-Chair Sapio asked what has caused the short staffing.

Sergeant Shapiro responded there are multiple reasons, such as pay, cost of living in our area, and competition with valley agencies.

Member Worob asked if there is a similar community that we could compare the Prescott Police Department with.

Sergeant Shapiro said he was unable to provide an informed response to that question.

Member Thalasis asked what the value of community events is such as coffee with a cop and the citizens' academy when the police department is short-staffed.

Sergeant Shapiro responded that community events are still important to interact with the community and most of the events are attended by supervisors, and pre-scheduled early in the year.

Member Thalasis asked if they need another facility in the next ten years that

the general plan is looking at.

Sergeant Shapiro commented that eventually they will need another facility.

Member Worob advised he has two major concerns; funding and housing and asked what the police department is looking at to correct those.

Sergeant Shapiro replied they have discussed housing like the school district is doing, they have some sign on bonuses, and have worked with HR for increased pay so far.

Chair Gambogi asked if down-payment assistance had been explored with HR.

Sergeant Shapiro stated that he is not sure if that has been explored with HR yet.

Member Frederickson asked about utilizing civilian staff for certain positions.

Sergeant Shapiro responded that they do have civilian traffic investigators on staff and citizens on patrol that help a great deal with traffic control and other tasks.

Member Huffman asked if the new jail on Sundog is beneficial to the Prescott Police Department.

Sergeant Shapiro stated that once it is fully staff it will be.

Chair Gambogi asked if we have a problem in Prescott with fentanyl.

Sergeant Shapiro replied it is a problem everywhere, but yes, most of the drug arrests are fentanyl.

Member Hess asked about a future additional police station.

Sergeant Shapiro advised that, based on the growth to the north, we will probably need at least one substation in that area.

Councilman Moore questioned the strategy for recruiting efforts and retention to fill the open police officer positions and planning for future officer needs.

Sergeant Shapiro stated that recruiting events are now done monthly, advertising is being done in different ways such as on vehicles and with QR codes and they are advertising across the country.

D. Presentation & Discussion from the Public Works Department Environmental Division Regarding Water Quality and Green Infrastructure.

Matt Killeen, Environmental Coordinator of the Public Works Department provided a presentation on the Environmental Planning Element of the General Plan.

Member McCarver asked if the air quality readings shown in the presentation were from the monitoring station on Commerce Drive.

Mr. Killeen responded they are.

Member Carman asked where the water comes from used in the street sweepers.

Mr. Killeen replied that street sweepers currently use the city's potable water.

Member Carman asked if cleaned wastewater could be used.

Mr. Killeen said that is a possibility. Staff would evaluate those kinds of water sources in terms of what is still left in them relative to storm water pollution. If there are traces of nutrients in there, we don't want to coat the roads that are going to be washed down into the lake with something that may have a slightly higher nitrogen or phosphorus profile.

Chair Gambogi asked for clarification on landscape blowers.

Mr. Killeen responded that commercial gas blowers are notoriously bad for pollution.

Chair Gambogi asked what we were doing about stormwater.

Mr. Killeen responded, GSI (Green Stormwater Infrastructure) may be helpful to implement new projects.

Member Thalasis asked about a stormwater study and wondered if that would be helpful.

Mr. Killeen stated that the city just received a grant for a green stormwater infrastructure evaluation, and it would be welcomed in the General Plan.

Member Worob commented on the simplicity of using nature such as curb cutting and rock dams.

Mr. Killeen replied that rock dams are used to reduce erosion and are a good source of carbon sink (a living sponge to soak up carbon and feed plants instead of washing it down into a stream).

Member McCarver asked what TMDL stood for.

Mr. Killeen responded that TMDL is the total maximum daily load document, which is the Clean Water Act document that prescribes what we need to do with pollutants.

Vice-Chair Sapio asked which lakes are not swimmable right now in Prescott.

Mr. Killeen commented that swimming is prohibited in all City of Prescott lakes. The lakes were originally created for irrigation purposes.

Chair Gambogi asked if it is the nutrient runoff from farmland that ends up in the lakes.

Mr. Killeen said that there are a number of different sources of nutrients, including septic systems, and eventually filter down into streams and then to

lakes.

Member Worob commented that sewage runoff has been greatly improved from what it was at one point and advised that the grant received will make a huge difference and the lakes are fixable to eventually be swimmable.

Member of the public, Tana Karen, asked if something can be done to educate the community to use fewer pesticides because it would make a lot of difference if it did not have to be cleaned up.

Mr. Killeen responded that from a Clean Water Act perspective, anything that runs off into the gutters or lakes that's not rainwater or snow melt is considered a pollutant, so it would merit consideration in the General Plan.

Chair Gambogi asked what T&E stands for and if we have any.

Mr. Killeen replied to T&E species means threatened and endangered species as identified by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Yes, we do have them in our community.

Chair Gambogi asked what an example of an invasive species would be.

Mr. Killeen stated that the Siberian Elms, Salt Cedar (Tamarix), and Tree of Heaven are examples of invasive plant species in our area.

Councilman Moore commented that there are a lot of invasive species and threatened and endangered species as well and these species force out native species, which has a huge ripple effect. The city should be a model for how to use or not use pesticides and herbicides and set a responsible example.

Member of the public Tana Karen added that pesticide type chemicals can cause multiple cancers and syndromes.

Member Carman asked how the 2015 General Plan affects his position on a daily basis.

Mr. Killeen responded he had not heard about the General Plan until he was recently asked to review it.

Member Carman asked Mr. Killeen if he had heard if the leaders within his department find the General Plan too rigid or not rigid enough or inflexible.

Mr. Killeen responded he had not heard the General Plan referenced at all.

Ms. DeWitt commented that the city employee General Plan work group is made up of staff that would be part of the implementation, which was also not done in the past.

Mr. Killeen commented that there currently is not a lot of alignment between a strategic plan and the General Plan.

Member Worob asked for more details on the recent grant accepted.

Mr. Killeen advised the grant is about to kick off and more information will be coming forward on that.

Councilmember Moore commented that elected officials need to look more at the General Plan since it is a much longer plan than a 2-year elected term.

Chair Gambogi replied that the Planning and Zoning Commission does reference the General Plan.

Member Hess added that Member Carman's question is quite revealing.

Member McCarver asked if it is possible to clean up and make lakes swimmable in the next 10 years.

Mr. Killeen responded yes, that could be attainable, but it also involves working with many other organizations to work toward that goal.

Mr. Worley commented that the implementation strategy and reporting requirement can help with accountability and making sure the plans are followed.

Member Worob commented on the history of past council actions.

Member Thalasis asked if the implementation portion could be an element of the plan.

Mr. Worley stated that it could be.

E. Presentation & Discussion Regarding Major Plan Amendments.
Planner Tammy DeWitt presented information on Major Plan Amendments.

Member Thalasis asked for clarification if the Major Plan Amendment requirements were voted on by the citizens.

Ms. DeWitt confirmed that the citizens did vote on it.

Member Thalasis asked if the buildable area was less than 40 acres, but the entire project area is 40 or more acres, does that trigger a Major Plan Amendment.

Ms. DeWitt responded it would since they look at the whole project area.

Member Hess suggested in the 2025 General Plan amending the criteria for a Major Plan Amendment. He added that any change to the Land Use Map should trigger the Major Plan Amendment approval process.

Member McCarver asked if the Major Plan Amendment parameters are pretty standard compared to other communities.

Ms. DeWitt advised a lot of cities have recently updated their parameters as they update their General Plans.

Vice-Chair Sapio commented that we are trying to predict the future when that is

very difficult, and don't want to tie the hands of future city councils.

Member Thalasis commented that she often hears from people that the General Plan means nothing.

Chair Gambogi commented that he would like to schedule this topic again for a future meeting. Member Hess requested the November meeting.

F. Presentation & Discussion Regarding a Review of the August 30, 2023, General Plan Open House.

Chair Gambogi commented that the turnout and resident participation at the open house was great. He requested each committee member get together with Ms. DeWitt and provide their feedback on what took place at their table and at the meeting in general.

Ms. DeWitt will also send to the committee members the feedback she received.

Member Worob said he saw a weakness, which was that he was not consulted about his multitude of years of experience on open space.

Mr. Worley commented that the process can be improved.

Vice-Chair Sapio commented he learned interesting things about the community, and they are supportive of the Fire Department, Police Department, and Library and feel the Airport is finally on a good path. He experienced no complaints about airport noise and the open house had good support from the general public.

Member Carman left the meeting at 4:37 p.m.

Member Thalasis left the meeting at 4:38 p.m.

5. **STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES**

Ms. DeWitt announced that the next General Plan Committee meeting will be on October 25th and there will be a traffic and circulation presentation.

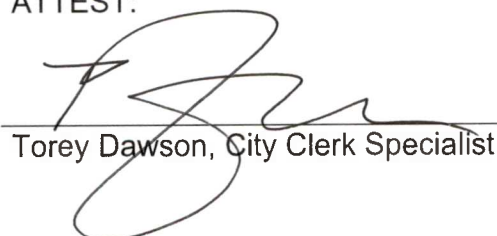
Member Hess requested to be excused from the October meeting.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, Chair Gambogi adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.


Ted Gambogi, Chair

ATTEST:


Torey Dawson, City Clerk Specialist