



City of Prescott

General Plan Review Committee

July 17, 2024 | 2:00 PM
201 N. Montezuma Street
Council Chambers, 3rd Floor
Prescott, AZ 86301

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sapio called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Terry Sapio, Chair
Don Michelman, Vice-Chair
Andre Carman
Mary Frederickson
Ralph Hess
JD Greenberg
Jim Huffman
Thomas Hutchison
James McCarver
Rod Moyer - Excused
Tom Reilly

3. OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Member of the public, Mike Parrish, spoke as a member of the Sundog Disconnect group and stated that CYMPO is recommending the Sundog Connector road, but he is concerned that future Council Members may see the mention of CYMPO and the Sundog Connector road as an approval and recommendation for the road even though the City of Prescott has not approved or recommended the road.

Member of the public, Deb Thalasisitis, commented that the General Plan amendment process in the current draft of the plan has been the same process in place since 2008, a lot of things have changed since that time. She researched other communities bigger and smaller than Prescott and none of them have a process similar to that of the City of Prescott. She asked the Committee to reconsider the language of the major plan amendment. She proposed a few alternative options.

Member of the public, Gary Anderson, Chair of the Yavapai Hills Sundog Committee, requested that if the language about the Sundog Connector must remain, additional details should be added: a no-build option was recommended in a recent study, the project would cost at least \$150 million, and there is overwhelming community opposition. He emphasized documenting this opposition to prevent future councils from reviving the project.

4. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Presentation, Review & Discussion of the Draft 2025 Prescott General Plan.

Community Planner, Tammy DeWitt, introduced the topic and displayed the current draft of the 2025 General Plan for the Committee and audience.

Member Hutchison commented that he had a general concern that the titles of the text does not pop out to him. He feels there should be an executive summary for each topic.

Ms. DeWitt commented that the goals and strategies will be the actionable items and important points.

Member Hess asked which comments are put into the draft from the public and Committee members, who decides which comments make it into the plan and do not.

Mr. Worley responded that if a member finds their comment is missing please let them know.

The Committee came to a consensus regarding the intro to change the introduction portion regarding discrimination.

Member Frederickson asked if the comments were updated in the current draft from the Martin Luther King Jr. Committee conversation at a prior meeting.

Chair Sapio commented that the statement should say the city does not condone discrimination.

Member Frederickson commented that she is uncomfortable with the current language as it is open-ended and can lead to many different interpretations. She would eliminate the list of protected classes and end the sentence before that portion. She would say the city does not condone discrimination or harassment within or by city staff, policies or actions.

Councilman Gambogi added that the statement should be simple in that the city aims to treat all people equally, without discriminating or focusing on specific categories.

Member McCarver commented he would like to leave the statement rather general.

Member Hess added that the phrase "everybody's Hometown" is not a legal standard but rather a representation of Prescott's welcoming attitude towards all people.

Member Carman recommended removing the action verbs and suggested additional edits for a more accurate statement.

Vice-Chair Michelman agreed to not have a list to eliminate the possibility of

leaving something out and maybe adding an example instead.

Member Greenberg commented that she agrees with removing the action verbs.

A majority of the Committee agreed to update the statement with the new suggestions from today's meeting.

Ms. DeWitt moved to the next section for review.

Chair Sapio stated that the focus of this meeting should be on the goals and strategies of each section.

Member Reilly suggested changing the wording from "affordable" housing to "attainable" as recommended by the Workforce Housing Committee.

Ms. DeWitt explained that there will be an implementation table which is a "living document" that will be continuously updated. It will show who is responsible, the timeline, and the completion date for each task, and it will be included at the end of the plan. She emphasized the importance of the goals and strategies, as they will guide the plan's implementation over the next 10 years.

Member Hutchison voiced concern that the citizens might like to know how the actions will be funded.

The Committee suggested multiple edits that Ms. DeWitt made note of to update in the draft.

Vice-Chair Michelman asked what they want to do about the term "Sundog Connector" in the General Plan.

Ms. DeWitt commented that since it references the older CYMPO study, she can see if there is an update available on the most recent study and see what it says.

Member Frederickson added that the Committee should include a clarifying statement such as CYMPO's recommendations are not necessarily approved by its members.

Chair Sapio responded that it is just saying the city is part of CYMPO like the other nearby municipalities.

Member Greenberg commented that her understanding was that CYMPO was directed by the Executive Board, which includes representatives from all the relevant municipalities and the county, to conduct a study. The study concluded with a decision of "no build" for the Sundog Connector at this time.

Ms. DeWitt proposed leaving in CYMPO's purpose and what they have accomplished over the last twenty years and take out the future recommendations.

Member Reilly suggested adding "and balance with other community needs" to

the end of the sentence in the third bullet point under "Open Space" for clarity. Member Frederickson agreed with Member Reilly that the clarification is needed.

Member Greenberg expressed concerns about open space issues, noting the need to clearly define and categorize open spaces, parks, and municipal properties in the zoning and land use maps. They emphasized the importance of protecting existing open spaces in perpetuity and suggested that the city's properties be categorized for clarity, as well as the need for public transparency and consideration of regional efforts, like creating contiguous wildlife corridors in collaboration with the Game and Fish Department. Additionally, they highlighted the lack of a maintenance plan for open spaces, pointing out the reliance on volunteer efforts and the need for a more sustainable solution.

Member Hess recommended adding an additional Strategy under Goal 1 of the Open Space Policy to create an open space advisory commission. Under Goal 3, Strategy 3.3 he would like to add "establish and maintain connectivity among newly annexed lands to provide wide and continuous corridors".

Member McCarver left the meeting at 4:07 p.m.

Member Hutchison left the meeting at 4:08 p.m.

Both Member Hess and Member Frederickson suggested adding an education component as an additional Strategy under Wildlife Corridors Implementation Strategies to bring public awareness to living with and having respect for wildlife.

Member Reilly recommended adding "and establish funding sources" to Goal 1 under "Open Space Policy".

Member of the public, Joan Oellers, spoke as a member of Save the Dells and asked how do the public comments get incorporated.

Ms. DeWitt responded that comments will be collected during the 60 day public comment period and then brought back to the Committee for review.

Member Huffman commented he would like to add a strategy to the "Digital Connectivity" section to explore available funding to improve digital connectivity.

Member Huffman left the meeting at 4:18 p.m.

Member Hess commented inserting "public participation and establishing locations for" after the first word in Strategy 1.5 for the Digital Connectivity Goals.

Member Frederickson agreed with Member Hess adding that it might encourage more representation from multiple points of view.

This item was for discussion only, no formal action was taken.

5. UPDATES

Ms. DeWitt stated the next meeting will be July 31, 2024 at 2 p.m.

Chair Sapio recommended to the Committee members review and focus on the Goals and Strategies for the next meeting.

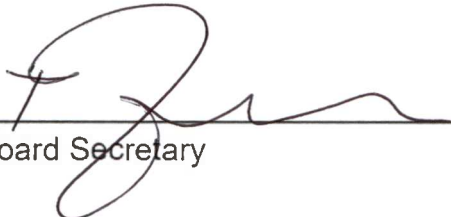
Member Hess revisited the discussion regarding the discrimination statement in the Introduction. The Committee recommended bringing the topic back at the next meeting so it can be discussed together with the Martin Luther King Jr. Committee again.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Sapio adjourned the meeting at 4:28 p.m.

ATTEST:

for Don Michelman
Terry Sapio, Chair



Board Secretary