



City of Prescott

General Plan Review Committee

August 28, 2024 | 2:00 PM
201 N. Montezuma Street
Council Chambers, 3rd Floor
Prescott, AZ 86301

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Michelman called the meeting to order at 02:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Terry Sapio, Chair (Excused)
Don Michelman, Vice-Chair
Andre Carman, Member (Excused)
Thomas Davis, Member
Mary Frederickson, Member
J.D. Greenberg, Member
Ralph Hess, Member
Jim Huffman, Member
James McCarver, Member (Arrived at 2:07 p.m.)
Rod Moyer, Member
Tom Reilly, Member

3. OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC

None.

4. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of the June 26, 2024 and July 17, 2024 General Plan Committee Meeting Minutes.

MOTION BY MEMBER REILLY TO APPROVE THE JUNE 26, 2024 MEETING MINUTES; SECONDED BY MEMBER HUFFMAN: PASSED (7 - 0), MEMBER DAVIS ABSTAINED.

MOTION BY MEMBER REILLY TO APPROVE THE JULY 17, 2024 MEETING MINUTES; SECONDED BY MEMBER HUFFMAN: PASSED (7 - 0), MEMBER MOYER ABSTAINED.

B. Presentation, Discussion & Review Regarding Draft of General Plan and Next Steps (60-day Public Comment Period and Public Hearings).
Tammy DeWitt, Community Planner, displayed the "Introduction" of the General Plan for review. She then moved to the next section of "Resiliency and Sustainability".

Member Hess suggested replacing "encourage" with "incentivize" on page 27, Strategy 1.2.

Ms. DeWitt responded that since the city currently does not have incentives, they suggested adding "Encourage the creation of incentives" to Strategy 1.2 to look into incentives the city could offer.

Member Hess responded that the word "encourage" does not have any effect or enforcement.

Member Reilly suggested using "develop incentives" as an alternative wording.

Member Hess agreed.

Member Reilly asked if Goal 2, Strategy 2.2, on page 34, is the appropriate place to include a recommendation to create a regional water advisory committee.

Ms. DeWitt responded she will work with Water Resources on how to word the recommendation and placement.

Member Davis commented he would like the water discussion to be a little easier for the public to understand.

Member Moyer agreed.

Member Hess stated that more information is needed in Strategy 2.3 on page 34 from the city water staff regarding the intentions for the Big Chino Water Ranch pipeline.

Ms. DeWitt confirmed they will look into that. She moved the Committee on to the next section for review, "A Community Connected".

Member Reilly commented that on page 53, the open space property zoning may need to be reworded for clarification. Additionally, on page 55, Strategy 1.7, he asked if the commission could be changed to a committee.

Ms. DeWitt reviewed a revision request on page 56, Strategy 2.4 that questioned if a charter amendment was the best approach. Therefore, "investigate" was added as it needs more review into the pros and cons of all the available options.

Member Greenberg expressed concern about protecting open space in perpetuity and how to word that to be effective in the plan.

George Worley, Planning Manager, said to keep in mind that this is a draft of the General Plan, which will soon enter a 60-day public review period. After that, the public's comments will be returned to the Committee for their evaluation.

Member Hess supports initiating a charter amendment to protect city-owned open space permanently, as previously suggested 21 years ago but never acted upon. He stated that using eminent domain is for acquiring, not protecting, land. Member Hess is skeptical of the term "investigate," fearing it leads to inaction, and stresses the need for a definitive charter amendment. He noted past

successes with protected areas like Acker Park and believed the amendment would require public approval, which could also repeal it if necessary. He would like to keep the plan's language focused on concrete action rather than vague investigation.

Ms. DeWitt reminded the Committee that this General Plan would have an implementation section to keep track of the needed actions.

MOTION BY MEMBER HESS TO MODIFY STRATEGY 2.4 ON PAGE 56 OF THE DRAFT 2025 GENERAL PLAN TO STATE "INITIATE A CHARTER AMENDMENT TO PROTECT IN PERPETUITY CITY-OWNED OPEN SPACE AS IT IS ACQUIRED THROUGH DEVELOPMENT, PURCHASE OR AGREEMENTS"; SECONDED BY MEMBER MOYER, PASSED (9-0)

Ms. DeWitt moved the Committee on to the next section for review.

Member Reilly recommended removing the word "wide" on Strategy 1.1, page 58, since the word is subjective.

Vice Chair Michelman provided an alternative of "functional" instead of "wide".

Ms. DeWitt suggested using "encourage developments where appropriate to evaluate" and they can further review when the report from Game & Fish is received.

Member Reilly accepted.

Ms. DeWitt moved the Committee forward to the next chapter of "Great Places and Neighborhoods".

Member Frederickson asked for clarification on the "aggregates" portion in this chapter.

Ms. DeWitt responded that the State statute requires that it is in the General Plan and the city has very little jurisdiction over mining.

Member Hess raised a question regarding the distinction between recreation space and open space, noting that in previous discussions these were treated separately. He observed that the table now uses "recreation in open space" instead of distinguishing between the two. He proposed a broader definition of open space to clarify this distinction, suggesting that "recreation" should refer to active uses, while "open space" implies passive recreation. He mentioned using the city's terminology and proposed reviewing this further with Parks and Recreation.

Member Greenberg commented that under "Residential Home Lighting", Prescott should become a Dark Sky community.

Mr. Worley, Planning Manager, responded that there are many requirements to meet to become an official Dark Sky Community, some of which may also cause

some problems. The city does have some Dark Sky attributes and reminded the Committee that the public can provide their thoughts on becoming a Dark Sky Community.

Member McCarver asked what the process is after public comments are received.

Mr. Worley responded that the statute requires a 60-day public comment period, after which the committee, Planning Commission, or City Council will review and decide on implementing the public's feedback. Ultimately, it's the City Council's decision whether to adopt these comments. The process includes periodic meetings during the 60-day period to share received comments with the committee and gather input, ensuring that public feedback is carefully considered.

Member Hess suggested a stronger word other than "investigate" to effect actual change.

Ms. DeWitt proposed using "review existing" since some plans may no longer be needed and leaves the option to eliminate plans no longer applicable and relevant.

Member Hess inquired about the archaeological resources reference.

Mr. Worley responded that an update to the Historic Preservation Master Plan is underway, and it will include a new chapter on archeology, which is currently missing. This updated plan, eventually adopted by ordinance, will likely be in place before the General Plan goes to a public vote. It will strengthen enforcement related to archaeological preservation, incorporating language similar to other regulatory requirements.

Vice-Chair Michelman asked about a reference to Firewise in the Tree City paragraph.

Holger Durre, Fire Chief, responded that they now use the term "Fire Adapted Community" which is far more comprehensive.

The Committee moved on to the next chapter of "Economic Competitiveness and Prosperity".

Member Frederickson asked if the statistics mentioned in the "Workforce Characteristics" contain just workforce age people or the whole population of Prescott.

Mr. Worley responded that the date is from a combination of sources, but it is very likely that it refers to the working age, usually defined as those under age 65.

Member Hess recommended removing "burdensome" from strategy 4.1, on page 87. The committee agreed that was a good idea as all regulations are

burdensome.

Member Frederickson asked if overlapping or duplicate strategies would appear on the implementation table once or twice.

Ms. DeWitt responded that there would be duplicates on the table with the same action and group.

Member Hess commented that this section discusses ways to enhance transaction privilege tax collection to fund city services. However, relying solely on this tax isn't sustainable, as it can't increase indefinitely. Other revenue sources will need to be considered, which would require amending state statutes and potentially the state constitution. The question was raised about where these suggestions should be incorporated.

Mr. Worley responded that it could be placed in this chapter and tasked to another department besides Economic Development, possibly City Council, and be a collaborative effort between a few departments.

Member Hess asked when the Implementation table would be updated.

Ms. DeWitt responded that once the Council confirms what goals are decided on, then they will be added to the implementation table.

Member Frederickson asked for clarification on the Major Plan Amendment.

Ms. DeWitt confirmed that portion is being updated.

MOTION BY MEMBER REILLY TO MOVE THE 2025 GENERAL PLAN DRAFT FORWARD FOR 60-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD; SECONDED BY MEMBER FREDERICKSON: PASSED (9 - 0)

Ms. DeWitt discussed the tentative timeline going forward and introduced the virtual meeting room, which is interactive for the public. Comments can be added and seen at any time and can be liked or disliked.

Member Frederickson asked if there is any limit to comments online, such as a length limit.

Ms. DeWitt responded there is no limit.

5. UPDATES

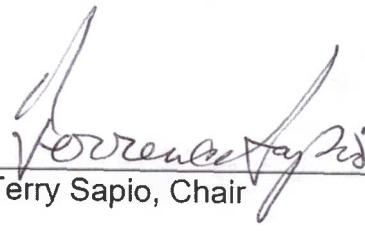
Vice-Chair Michelson thanked the Committee members for contributing to the process.

Ms. DeWitt thanked Kimley-Horn for being great partners in putting the plan together.

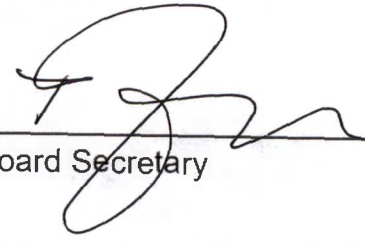
Member Reilly thanked staff.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chair Michelman adjourned the meeting at 03:52 p.m.


Terry Sapio, Chair

ATTEST:


Board Secretary