

CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date November 16, 2015
Time 11 AM
Location Police Community Room
250 E. Chicago St.

Participants

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tim Bricker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Terri Kimble
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Brocks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sherri Koshiol
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michelle Chang	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spike Lawrence
<input type="checkbox"/> Carlos Contreras	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sky McCorkle
<input type="checkbox"/> Gary Davis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eshe Pickett
<input type="checkbox"/> Trinity Donovan, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/> Greg Rodriguez
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeffrey Edgett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Sharman
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carol Elias	<input type="checkbox"/> Dale Steiner
<input type="checkbox"/> Michael Flanders	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matthew Strom
<input type="checkbox"/> Ken Frisard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Sty
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lloyd Harrell	<input type="checkbox"/> Rebecca Turnblade
<input type="checkbox"/> Garry Hays	

Project Team & City Staff David de la Torre, City of Chandler; Peggy Fiandaca, Partners for Strategic Action, Inc.; Drew Huseh, EPS Group, Inc.; Kim Gehrke, City of Chandler; Jackie Guthrie, EPS Group Inc.; Jeff Kurtz, City of Chandler; Kevin Mayo, City of Chandler; Micah Miranda, City of Chandler; Marsha Reed, City of Chandler; Glenn Brockman, City of Chandler; Jason Crampton, City of Chandler, Dave Bigos, City of Chandler, Jim Phipps, City of Chandler

Public Jeffrey Gross, Gallagher & Kennedy; Michael Pollack, Pollack Investments; Jeff Weninger, State Representative; Joseph Herbert, Herbert Law Offices; Anthony Dynar, Pollack Investments; Jason Rose, Rose+Moser PR; Chris Coppola, Arizona Republic; Maria Cadavid

Meeting Summary

Acting Chair Lloyd Harrell convened the meeting at 11:05 a.m. and accepted a motion to approve the August 17, 2015 meeting summary notes from Robert Sty and a second from Jeffrey Edgett with a change to page 1: correction to the date of the approved CAC meeting (June not April); the motion was unanimously passed.

Public Comment

Mr. Harrell invited public comments and asked them to keep their comments to 3 – 5 minutes. Following is a summary.

Mr. Jeffrey Gross, Gallagher & Kennedy: representing Michael Pollack who has seven properties along Arizona Avenue. Mr. Gross mentioned that he sent the City of Chandler a letter over the weekend and will highlight some of the issues. Major concern is the designation of light rail along Arizona Avenue that will impact the redevelopment potential of areas along the corridor and directly impact his client. He stated this was problematic because there are no light rail transit studies completed showing the need, no funding available, no estimation of ridership, no buy-in from the community, and that light rail, if feasible, is so far into the future. These unknowns will directly impact his client's land marketability. He also mentioned that there is significant opposition to light rail by business owners along the corridor. Policies created based on light rail transit create uncertainty.

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Mr. Michael Pollack representing his seven businesses along Arizona Avenue. Expressed concern that he only heard of the planning process in the last three weeks. He explained how he suffered through the widening of the intersections along Arizona Avenue to allow more traffic flow. Mr. Pollack questioned who would use the light rail because there isn't much residential located and the current buses are not widely used. He stated there are parts of the General Plan that he loved such as encouraging high density residential and increasing commercial density along Arizona Avenue but I won't support the General Plan moving forward if light rail is encouraged in this corridor. Mr. Pollack also stressed that there should be a vote of residents to see if there is public support for light rail.

Mr. Jeff Weninger, State Representative and former Councilmember said that light rail transit is one of the biggest decisions for Chandler. He stressed the importance of gaining assurance that there will be a separate vote for light rail transit before moving forward with the concept. Transparency is important and the City of Chandler sets the bar high on transparency. When I was council I voted in support of the Fiesta Downtown Chandler Transit Corridor Study. However, it is critical to move forward in a transparent way because it will drastically impact businesses.

Mr. Joseph Hubert, Attorney said that when something gets put into the General Plan it becomes a "flow chart" to the future. It is important to recognize that expectation. Since there is a public vote on the General Plan, if light rail is included and the plan gets approved, then the light rail concept has voter support. Mr. Hubert suggested that a new policy be added requiring

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a public vote before light rail transit gets approved. He does not want light rail to receive “pre-approval” as a result of voting in support of the general plan.

Mr. Harrell thanked the public for these comments and turned the meeting over to project manager Peggy A. Fiandaca, Partners for Strategic Action, Inc. (PSA).

General Plan Update Overview

Ms. Fiandaca thanked the public for their comments. She stressed that the timing was perfect since this is the first time that the CAC was reviewing the first draft of the General Plan. It is the beginning of the review process and collectively the team was working on creating a 60-Day Review Draft that will be made public in January 2016. Public meetings will be planned for January during the 60-day review process and additional presentations to the city committees/boards. The City Council was receiving an update on the planning process this evening and the Regional Resource Team was meeting the next day to review the plan. Ms. Fiandaca provided a brief overview of the outreach activities since last CAC meeting, including the Planning Lab, monthly polls, and presentations to city staff and committees.

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Discussion of Draft General Plan

In response to a CAC question, Jason Crampton provided an overview of the Fiesta Downtown Chandler Transit Corridor Study. He said it was a two year study that should be completed in early 2017. In 2012, another study was completed that did high-level research that provided direction for future study. This current study will study two alternatives and examine two modes (i.e., bus rapid transit and light rail transit). The study outcome will be a recommended alignment and preferred mode.

The CAC discussed each of the Chapters and made the following comments.

- Mention that the City is participating in the mid-decade census and it is currently in process.
- Provide a list of studies identified in the General Plan and put in the Appendix.
- Strengthen language about boundaries.
- Consider repeating the Element Matrix (shown on page 1) at the beginning of each chapter.
- Page 29 – add text about design, color, and aesthetics.
- Improve the photos being used in the document.
- Further define high capacity transit.
- Page 40 – Add “innovation zone” at the Airport in policy 1.2.3g.
- Page 42 – check the adaptive reuse to ensure it matches current language.
- Page 43 – add more discussion about downtown revitalization.
- Page 43 – add some text about how well the South Arizona Avenue Entry Corridor Study has been implemented or identify what has been accomplished as a result of the study.
- Page 46 – last paragraph, provide more clarification.

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- Page 51 – add the LINK service to Table 2.
- Page 52 – clarify that the preferred passenger rail route was chosen.
- Page 58 – 1.4.2.a - Has Price Road corridor been considered for high capacity transit? Businesses would love to see high capacity transit designated on the Price Road corridor. Consider adding different employment areas.
- Page 64 - Include a subsection on Innovations Zones/Districts.
- Page 65 - Consider discussing the potential for partnering with and advocating for the location of institutions of higher education with a global focus.
- Page 65 – add more discussion about work force.
- Page 71 – consider location criteria regarding 1.6.a access to a healthy food supply.
- Page 75 – Water Quality – consider moving the section to page 80.
- Page 95 – add other higher educational institutions in Chandler.
- Add information about all the award-winning programs and certifications that the City of Chandler has received.

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Ms. Fiandaca requested that Committee members provide any additional feedback on the Draft Plan by end of day November 20, 2015.

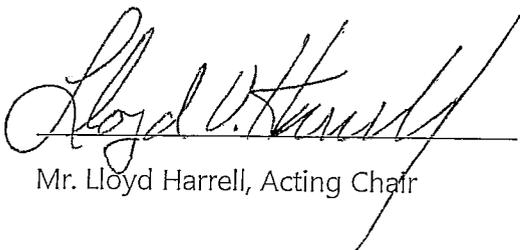
General Plan Next Steps

Ms. Fiandaca indicated that the study team would be developing the 60-Day Review Draft General Plan in November/December timeframe. The 60-Day review process will begin in January 2016. Three workshops will be held to receive public comment on the draft plan. The next CAC meeting will be in February 2016 with public hearings starting in March 2016.

Adjournment

Acting Chair Harrell accepted a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting, and the motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.



Mr. Lloyd Harrell, Acting Chair