

Meeting Summary

CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date June 15, 2015
 Time 11 a.m.
 Location Police Community Room
 250 E. Chicago St.

Participants

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

Project Team & City Staff
 Nasir Ahmed, City of Chandler; David de la Torre, City of Chandler; Peggy Fiandaca, Partners for Strategic Action, Inc.; Drew Huseth, EPS Group, Inc.; Kim Gehrke, City of Chandler; Jackie Guthrie, EPS Group Inc.; Patrice Kraus, City of Chandler; Jeff Kurtz, City of Chandler; Rick Merritt, Elliott Pollack & Company; Jim Phipps, City of Chandler; Marsha Reed, City of Chandler; Fernando Resendiz, City of Chandler; Audra Koester Thomas, Partners for Strategic Action, Inc.; K. Scott McCoy, City of Chandler

Public Donna Easworth-Boler, Moe Wakefield

Chairwoman Trinity Donovan convened the meeting at 11:04 a.m. and accepted a motion to approve the April 20, 2015 meeting summary notes from Lloyd Harrell and a second from Carlos

Contreras; the motion was unanimously passed. Ms. Donovan turned the meeting over to project manager Peggy A. Fiandaca, Partners for Strategic Action, Inc. (PSA).

General Plan Update Overview

Ms. Fiandaca provided an overview of the outreach activities from Vision Fest, noting all feedback received is detailed within the **Vision Fest Summary** report. Ms. Fiandaca specifically noted the extensive youth engagement effort.

General Plan Framework Review

Ms. Fiandaca reviewed the previously presented General Plan Framework, noting it detailed how the General Plan Update should be streamlined. This Framework, Ms. Fiandaca indicated, was followed in constructing the **Future Vision and Policy Considerations** working paper.

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Discussion of Future Vision and Policy Considerations

Participants worked in small groups reviewing sections of the **Future Vision and Policy Considerations** working paper. The working paper, Ms. Fiandaca noted, reflects the culmination of feedback received thus far in addition to best practices and technical guidance. The paper outlines potential new policy concepts for inclusion in the General Plan Update, as well as catalogues existing General Plan policy that is recommended to be retained in the Update.

The following summarizes the direction provided.

Recommendations and comments

- 1.1.i. (Further Review) Consider a more diverse building façade and color palate for the built environment. *Further define intent and expectations.*
- 1.1.l. *Further define "where appropriate."*
- 1.1.m. *Rewrite more like a policy and further define "convey how affordable housing is determined or classified."*
- 1.1.o. Provide Encourage a range of housing types and affordable housing units within walking distance of schools and other community facilities (e.g., libraries, transit centers, community centers, health clinics).
- 1.1.p. Develop and enforce housing and neighborhood maintenance codes, including rental housing standards.
- 1.1.r. *Should the General Plan in policy identify "Update" a master plan? Rewrite more like a policy.*
- ~~1.1.u. Clarify the meaning of terms like "integrate" and "group homes." Don't want to encourage group homes to cluster in a neighborhood.~~
- 1.2.1 (Potential gap) *Add a policy that recommends establishing a redevelopment district that specifies development standards, building heights, etc. for desired downtown development but that also encourages creativity.*
- 1.2.1 (Potential gap) *Add a policy that indicates current open or recreational space in downtown should remain open or recreational space (i.e., San Marcos golf course).*

- 1.2.1.a. Seek to develop a grand public park that expands the city's identity, sense of place, and grows recreational opportunities for all ages and abilities. [Strike reference to San Marcos Golf Course]
- 1.2.1.b. Add family-oriented facilities (~~e.g., splash pad~~) and activities downtown.
- 1.2.1.f (Recommend deletion)
- 1.2.1.g. (Recommend deletion, duplicative)
- 1.2.1.g. (Further Review) Define and sign a truck route around the downtown center. *If this is really a problem, perhaps staging action is more meaningful (e.g., slowing speeds first then defining a truck route).*
- 1.2.2.c. *Define desired types of mixed-use development (e.g., residential/retail, corporate, small industry not appropriate on South Price Road Corridor, etc.)*
- 1.2.2.d. (Recommend deletion, duplicative)
- 1.2.2.e. (Further Review) Decrease the number of automobile travel lanes to only two in each direction in order to accommodate high-capacity transit, incorporate bike lanes, and provide shaded sidewalks. *Concerns regarding and some opposition cited for reduction in automobile travel lanes. Suggested that timing of lane reductions be tied to high-capacity transit implementation.*
- 1.2.3 (Potential gap) *Consider encouraging campus-style development within the airpark area.*
- 1.2.3.a. (Comment) *Tumbleweed park sets the tone and could be that partnership focus with an airport-themed park to attract families. Could sponsor 5K runs on the runway and other unique activities.*
- 1.2.3.b. (Comment) *The airpark needs a small destination business or attraction. Businesses can have direct 'thru-the-fence' connectivity to the runway—a very unique advantage that is no longer prevalent or available at other airport locations in the country. Need to focus on providing better charter services. Tie the airport to health care such as emergency transport, life flight; the hospital is now a level one trauma center and there is a lot of helicopter traffic. Consider attracting a fixed-base operator committed to medical/health care.*
- 1.2.4 (Comment) *Keep South Price Road Corridor focus on high-income earning knowledge-based industries in a campus setting.*
- 1.2.4 (Potential gap) ADD: Promote densification of employment campuses and potential for increased building height.
- 1.2.4.a. (Recommend deletion, duplicative)
- 1.2.5 (Potential gap) *The hospital is now a level one trauma center with lots of helicopter transport traffic; consider adding a policy to help protect this area from encroachment.*
- 1.2.5 (Potential gap) *There are 3,000 employees, many park a distance away and walk to the facility. Consider adding a policy that encourages connectivity and ease of access within current campus environments and any future facilities expansions.*
- 1.2.5.d (Potential gap) *Consider strengthening support for hospitality-related retail and commercial development that would cater longer-stay, trauma center patients and their families (e.g., hotels)*
- 1.2.6.c. *Move to 3.3 " and generalize to address incentives.*

- 1.3.e. Implement simple techniques and technologies that result in safe pedestrian crossings.
- 1.3.f. Encourage establishment of ~~Launch~~ a bicycle sharing program with bicycles located strategically (e.g., at activity centers) throughout the city for residents and visitors use.
- 1.3.f. (Comment) *May be too specific as a policy.*
- 1.3.i. Provide arterial medians that act as safety zones for crossing pedestrians (e.g. reimagined North Arizona Avenue intersections).
- 1.3.m. (Recommend deletion, duplicative)
- 1.3.o. Support passenger rail between Tucson and Phoenix, as may be appropriate, to improve mobility for Chandler residents and to support business development.
- 1.3.p. Identify designated routes for freight movement within the city, taking advantage of rail opportunities as well as Loop 101, Loop 202, and I-10 to connect regionally and protect the city's arterial system for convenient local access.
- 1.3.q. *Explain what a "comprehensive street network" is and how it helps to achieve efficient freeway access. Consider specifying type/kind of traffic users or models.*
- 1.4 (Potential gap) ADD: Continue to develop a strong labor force to meet business needs.
- 1.4 (Potential gap) *Add education and lifelong learning policies (e.g., partnerships with school districts, library serving as a life-long learning asset, university partnerships)*
- 1.4.a. Continue to target and attract businesses to Chandler's strategic Growth Areas. ~~(Knowledge-based industries represented by large and small companies would continue to be the focus of the South Price Road Corridor, however, the dependence on large single user companies would be moderated with the ability of smaller companies and start-ups to enter the corridor in campus-style office complexes.)~~ *Campus-like development considerations already contained in other policies.*
- 1.4.e. Continue to develop and attract destination tourism, entertainment and recreation events and facilities.
- 1.5.c. (Recommend deletion) *Seems old fashioned and out-of-date.*
- 1.5.f. (Recommend deletion) *Does this mean incorporating community gardens or forwarding farm-to-table operations?*
- 1.6.a. (Comment) *Consider taking out old housing and replacing with new housing.*
- 1.6.b. (Comment) *Need to incorporate guidelines of Mayor's 4-corner study. Need to ensure redevelopment is compatible with existing commercial centers (e.g., four or five schools in shopping malls/centers is too many; add or incorporate residential components into these redevelopment opportunities).*
- 1.6.b. Target diversified redevelopment of vacant, underutilized commercial/retail properties.
- 1.6.c. (Comment) *"Gems" include residential properties.*
- 2.1.f. Utilize and implement creative applications for solar technology ~~(e.g., spot cooling at bus stops).~~
- 2.2.a. Work toward reducing the overall carbon footprint of residential, commercial, industrial, transportation, and municipal operations.
- 2.2 (Potential gap) ADD: Identify and explore off-grid power sources and technologies for municipal, residential, and commercial properties.

- 2.3 (Potential gap) ADD: Discourage turf and other water-intensive uses in development covenant and deed restrictions.
- 2.3 (Comment) *Ensuring Future Water Considerations policy considerations seem duplicative.*
- 2.3.g. Incentivize expanded use of desert-sensitive, water-wise landscaping while ~~expanding opportunities to appropriately "green" the community.~~
- 2.3.j. (Further Review) Continue to promote water conservation practices, conserving water during normal supply years to assure available supplies during emergencies and/or drought. *What does this really mean? Has Chandler utilized such a policy?*
- 2.3.j. *Clarify intent of policy.*
- 2.3.k. ~~The city's underground storage and water recovery program is an essential part of Chandler's water resource management plan. The city should continue to work with SRP and others to assure the city's eight recharge sites are managed and protected for future need.~~
- 3.1.a. Prevent crime through enhanced crime fighting strategies and education and ~~reducing victimization.~~
- 3.1 (Potential gap) ADD: Develop strategies to proactively address public safety issues resulting from densification or changes in type of development. (e.g., foot patrol in high density, urban locations; specialized fire equipment for high-rise development)
- 3.1 (Potential gap) *Add a police response time or a related strategy measure.*
- 3.2.c. Coordinate with schools to monitor and address population growth and change, and to support a range of sustainable schooling opportunities.

Policy Considerations Particularly Liked by Committee Members

- 1.1.b. *Support adaptive reuse*
- 1.1.d. *Support adaptive reuse*
- 1.2.2.g. *Important to improve the sense of entry/arrival into city*
- 1.2.3.f.
- 1.3.o. *Important policy in light of all three recommended alternatives traversing through or adjacent to Chandler, with two alternatives proposing stations within Chandler.*
- 1.4.a.
- 1.4.c. *Need to carefully evaluate the cost/benefit of economic development and environmental impact.*
- 1.5.d.
- Sustainability policies (e.g., 2.1.f, 2.2.a, 2.2.c)

Other Comments

- Northern Arizona Avenue should be considered a designated corridor and/or create an area plan for its future and deliberate redevelopment.
- Consider specifying support for light rail along with policies that address mitigation relative to construction impacts.
- Consider mapping or otherwise depicting accomplishments made from/by the 2008 General Plan; big ideas were presented and the General Plan Update should discuss outcomes.

- Include photos illustrating concepts within the General Plan Update (e.g., different densities bike paths, etc.)
- Provide definitions and explanation of Chandler's hierarchy of the plans within the General Plan Update; describe how conflicts between plans are managed.
- Medical and Regional Retail should be two different Growth Areas instead of combined. They are different.
- Medical development opportunities are also needed outside of the "Medical/Regional Retail" growth area. The medical field is rapidly evolving and the locations where patients receive medical services are changing; patients no longer need to travel to centralized medical/hospital center. We need to plan for smaller satellite acute centers and ambulatory facilities in neighborhoods (don't zone them out, as this is the future, rather than multi story hospitals). Encourage a medical center near Riggs Road.
- With 30% of Chandler's population aging into retirement, need to ensure recreational opportunities exist for this growing population.
- Code enforcement is important. There is continued deterioration in the maintenance of homes and neighborhoods.

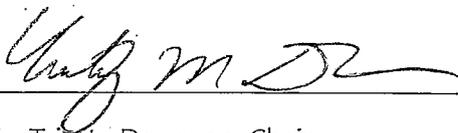
General Plan Next Steps

Ms. Fiandaca indicated that the study team would be facilitating additional public engagement in July and requested committee members provide ideas for helping to facilitate that engagement.

Adjournment

Chairwoman Donovan accepted a motion to adjourn from Spike Lawrence and a second by Gary Davis; motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 12:53 p.m.



Ms. Trinity Donovan, Chair