

GPAC Meeting Summary

April 18, 2024, 6:30 PM

Introduction

Meeting Access

All GPAC Meetings are public, and this meeting was held on Zoom. Meeting information, presentation slides, and other materials are posted on the City's Meetings site and the Petaluma General Plan website: www.cityofpetaluma.org/meetings/ and <https://www.planpetaluma.org/>.

Agenda

- Welcome
- Project and Staff Updates
- GPAC Involvement in Upcoming Outreach Events Discussion
- Updates from Working Groups
 - Public Comment
- General Public Comment
- GPAC Member General Comment

Attendance

There were 11 total members of the General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) members in attendance, as well as members of the public. The following GPAC members were present:

1. Dave Alden
2. Phil Boyle
3. Ali Gaylord
4. Yensi Jacobo
5. Iliana Inzunza Madrigal
6. Roberto Rosila Mares
7. Brent Newell
8. Kris Rebillot
9. Bill Rinehart
10. Joshua Riley Simmons
11. Bill Wolpert

The following GPAC members were absent:

1. Stephanie Blake
2. Mary Dooley
3. Sharon Kirk
4. Roger Leventhal
5. Lizzie Wallack

The following City and consultant staff were present at the meeting:

City of Petaluma:

Heather Hines – Special Projects Manager, *M-Group Consulting Planner serving the City of Petaluma*

Heather Gurewitz – Senior Planner, *M-Group Consulting Planner serving the City of Petaluma*

Consultant Team:

Ron Whitmore – *Raimi + Associates*

Michelle Hernandez - *Raimi + Associates*

Meeting Summary

The focus of the 30th GPAC meeting was to allow GPAC Working Groups an opportunity to provide updates on their progress reviewing Policy Frameworks, to raise any key questions to staff and other GPAC members, and to discuss GPAC involvement in upcoming outreach events.

Opening

Heather Hines started the meeting by taking roll call attendance for GPAC members.

Project and Staff Updates

Heather Hines presented project and staff updates on the following topics:

- The planning team will present to the City Council on April 29th on the Public Draft Blueprint for Carbon Neutrality, the Policy Framework review process, and the Land Use Alternatives development process.
- All of the Public Review Draft Policy Frameworks, except for the Land Use Policy Framework and the Flood Resilience Framework, have been released to the public for review. The Frameworks will be presented to a variety of Petaluma’s Committees, Commissions, and Boards (CCBs) in May and June.
- Public feedback on the Frameworks is being gathered through the project website, Framework-specific feedback forms, and a community open house on May 11th. The open house Plan Fest will occur at the Fairgrounds 9am-2pm on May 11th and will have family-friendly fun alongside stations for each Framework.

Please see the presentation slides and the project website (<https://www.planpetaluma.org/>) for more information about the project and staff updates.

GPAC Involvement in Upcoming outreach Events

Ron discussed GPAC members’ role as ambassadors to the community on the General Plan. As ambassadors, GPAC members are asked to use their existing community network to encourage participation in the Plan Fest workshop and to invite community members to provide their input online or through the Working Groups and CCB meetings. The planning team invites GPAC members to help staff Plan Fest at the stations they are interested in and that align with their Working Group.

GPAC Clarifying Questions & Comments

GPAC members provided the following comments after the project and staff updates.

- Can we get the Plan Fest staffing information via email?
- Will the Flood Resilience station include the Blueprint for Carbon Neutrality?
 - A: This is not a planned portion of the station since the Public Review phase of the Blueprint process is now closed.
- Roberto, Kris, Iliana, Phil, and Yensi volunteered to help staff the Plan Fest event.

Updates from Policy Frameworks Working Groups

Ron reminded Working Groups that the Policy Framework review should be documented and submitted to the planning team in the Framework Review Form provided. The feedback should be actionable and provide a description of where there is consensus and when the group was not able to reach consensus; it should not be a list of individual comments from the committee or community members.

Instead of a regular GPAC meeting in May, the Community Center Craft Room will be available to provide an optional, unfacilitated space for the Working Groups to meet and begin consolidating feedback. The Framework Review Forms are due to the City by June 7th so they can be presented at the June 20th GPAC meeting.

Equity Working Group

Reviewing Health, Equity and Environmental Justice Framework

- The group will work with Dave Alden and Urban Chat to invite more community feedback.
- Iliana has been sharing the Plan Fest event with her networks in order to hear feedback from community members that have not participated in GPAC meetings or other planning events.

Mobility Working Groups

Reviewing the Transportation Framework and Governance & Implementation Framework

- So far, we have heard that clarification on how the General Plan is implemented will be important.
- There needs to be alignment between the Frameworks and the Blueprint for Carbon Neutrality. One of the biggest misalignments is that the Blueprint calls for carbon neutrality, but the Frameworks aren't laying the groundwork to achieve our goals. For example, the Blueprint sets a goal for a 75% mode shift but the Framework does not call for the addition of bus services. Additionally, if we are trying to be carbon neutral, all homes will need to switch from natural gas, but that isn't mentioned in the Frameworks either.
- The introductory pages in the Framework are not very enthusiastic, we need to try to do better with the final General Plan to get people excited and supportive.

Culture & Community Working Group

Reviewing the Historic Resources Framework and the Arts, Culture and Creativity Framework

- The group has met a few times and is still working through it. There does need to be more City staffing to implement many of these ideas, such as a park planner, which has been heard a number of times.
 - A: The Framework does not get into that level of detail since staffing allocations change every year and are set by the City Council.
- There needs to be more action and commitment behind the ideas; would be interested in reading the Implementation document. The presentations to the CCBs should include some discussion about the implementation side.

Land Use Working Group

Reviewing the Economic Development Framework and the Noise Framework

- The group will connect with Know Before You Grow about gathering more input through their networks.
- If we have specific policies or ideas that aren't addressed, how should we communicate that?
 - A: Missing or new ideas can be add under the What is Missing section of the Framework Review Form.
- It seems counterintuitive to maintain industrial sites considering the Blueprint for Carbon Neutrality.
 - A: Retaining or changing industrial sites will be part of the land use conversation. The typical industrial use in Petaluma is lighter industrial, but it is something to consider with the need to balance jobs and housing and to reduce community emissions.

Hazard Mitigation, Climate Change Adaptation, and Resilience Working Group

Reviewing Safety Framework, Public Facilities Framework, and Flood Resilience Framework

- The group is waiting for the Flood Resilience Framework to be released before engaging in deep review.
- The Public Facilities Framework was initially confusing because it mentions Police and Fire services and facilities, and the group had not expected that. There should be a clear definition of a public facility, if it's not a park or public infrastructure, what is it?

Engineering Working Group

Reviewing Infrastructure & Utilities Framework

- It is difficult to understand what would determine an action to be completed. Is each action going to have an associated deliverable that, if completed, reflects the completion of a policy and then a goal? How is an action complete? How can a policy and goal be set up for success?
 - A: Actions are usually not included in Policy Frameworks, but some are included in order to gather feedback on them. The final General Plan will have more detail about the timeline and City responsibilities with each action in order to implement them. Input on which are more important or of higher priority will shape how the final implementation actions look like.

- The team should consider if some actions need to be completed first so that others can be implemented.
- It would be helpful to have an appendix for each framework that shows the roadmap for completion.

Open Space and Natural Resources Working group

Reviewing Parks & Recreation Framework and Natural Environment Framework

- The group is trying to re-engage with the community members it had met with previously; will hopefully hear more feedback in May.
- The initial impression is that a lot of the group's input is not there. For example, so many people mentioned trees previously and the word tree only shows up once in the Framework. Maybe the group provided too much information before this stage, but overall, they have heard a lot of disappointment over the Natural Environment Framework.
- The focus of the Natural Environment Framework should be more on the natural resources within our urban environment since there is not much natural environment within the city.
- The Parks Framework is going in the right direction.

Public Comment on Agenda

The following public comments were presented after the presentation.

- The Senior Committee would like to get in contact with the Open Space Working Group.
 - Bill Reinhart will connect with them.

General Public Comment

The following public comments were made at the meeting.

- The Hindu Center in Petaluma has operated for many years and would like to build a permanent home that can provide a new community space, as they would like to be an even greater part of the community in Petaluma and regionally in Sonoma and Marin Counties. They would appreciate any help in navigating the development permit system to build a new religious facility in town.
- If the team needs more assistance with the May 11th event, some members of the public are happy to help.

GPAC Member General Comment

GPAC members provided the following comments at the end of the meeting:

- Can CCB members staff the Plan Fest event?
 - A: Yes, the team has not asked them yet.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 PM.