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**Date:** April 15, 2022  
**To:** General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) members  
**From:** General Plan Update Team  
**Subject:** April 21, 2022 GPAC Meeting

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This memo is intended to help you prepare for the GPAC meeting on April 21, 2022. We will cover a range of topics during this meeting. The meeting will include a presentation from members of the Youth Commission, a summary of community input from engagement activities associated with the Housing Element, General Plan land use “What If” scenarios, and an update from GPAC Working Group regarding progress to date and anticipated next steps. Staff will also share brief updates about the project and related initiatives.

**Background: Youth Commission**

The purpose of the Youth Commission is to be an advocate for the well-being and development of youth in Petaluma and in the five areas of the Commission’s mission: health, safety, recreation, jobs, and community engagement. More information about the Youth Commission is available online at the following websites: (<https://cityofpetaluma.org/committees-youth-commission/>; <https://www.petalumayouthcommission.com/>). During the meeting, members of the Commission will present their priorities for the General Plan, with a focus on natural resources and mobility.

**Background: Community Input on the Housing Element**

Recent community engagement has been focused on soliciting input to consider as part of the Housing Element update. This input builds on housing-related input received during the General Plan Update process to date and together will inform the Draft of the Housing Element. . Since the March 17 GPAC meeting, the Planning Team has met with the Planning Commission, hosted a community workshop, and initiated interviews and focus groups with affordable and market-rate housing developers.

In preparation for the April 21 meeting, please review **Attachment B**, the Housing Workshop Summary Report, and be prepared to share any supplemental perspectives or insights on housing strengths, challenges, locations, heights, and programs.

**Background: “What If” Scenarios**

As discussed at previous GPAC meetings, the Housing Element and Alternatives Phase of the GPU are advancing concurrently. An initial step to prepare for the Alternatives Phase is to develop “What If” scenarios. The purpose of these different scenarios is to test some hypothetical futures, concepts, and ideas at a citywide scale using UrbanFootprint (<https://urbanfootprint.com/>).

During the GPAC meeting, we will review the draft scenarios, key drivers (from existing conditions and visioning), and starting assumptions, as well as their relationship to the alternatives. The Consultant Team will then provide an overview of some example scenarios and demonstrate how those scenarios impact key metrics. As part of the ensuing discussion, we’re very interested in your ideas for other potential scenarios to explore, particularly from the perspectives of the Working Group topics.

The purpose of these scenarios is to help the GPAC determine what potentials help achieve overarching priorities as outlined in the visioning materials, including being a leader in achieving carbon neutrality, forwarding equity and justice, seeing significant decrease in automobile use, and responding to sea level rise and flooding risks. If not, what do we need to do to achieve these

things? These are questions that we will continue to work on over the coming months as we delve into the alternatives phase of the project.

**Checking in with our GPAC Working Groups**

Staff has received updated information from each Working Group that provides an overview of logistics, focus and emerging considerations for the Alternatives phase. Each GPAC meeting will allocate time on the agenda to hear from each of the working groups, support collaboration and check in to see if working groups need additional support from the planning team. Please be prepared for one representative from each working group to share pertinent updates.

If you have any questions, please contact Christina Paul ([cpaul@cityofpetaluma.org](mailto:cpaul@cityofpetaluma.org)). Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you next week!

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Summary notes from the March 17, 2022 GPAC meeting

Attachment B: Housing Workshop Summary Report