
Date: November 10, 2022
To: General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) members
From: General Plan Update Team
Subject: November GPAC Meeting

We look forward to the GPAC meeting next Thursday, November 17. This memo is intended to help you prepare for that meeting. After brief staff updates, the meeting will be devoted to a discussion of natural resources policy and strategy ideas with the General Plan Update consultant team.

Zoom Link for the meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/91211018537>

General Plan Policy and Strategy Ideas – Natural Resources

During the October 20 GPAC meeting, members of the consultant team facilitated discussions with the GPAC about emerging policy and strategy concepts related to parks, transportation, economic development, and arts and culture. These concepts are built on GPAC Working Group recommendations, findings from the existing conditions analysis, the vision and guiding principles, City staff insights, and best practices.

The consultant team found the October GPAC meeting discussions immensely valuable and is using GPAC input to refine draft policies and strategies. GPAC feedback at the October meeting requested more time for future strategy discussions with the consultant team. With that in mind, the November GPAC meeting will focus on the single topic of natural resources. The GPAC Open Space and Natural Resource Working Group's compiled an extensive report of recommendations that have been shared with the consultant team to contribute to their understanding of community priorities and has served as a foundation for next week's discussion. The Working Group's report is included as Attachment B as reference and preparation for the strategy discussion next week.

To kick-start next week's discussion, representatives from Rincon Consultants will provide an overview of key issues and questions related to natural resources. The overview will include key findings from the existing conditions analysis, related community and GPAC input, and initial policy and strategy ideas. Given the single topic focus, it is anticipated that the presentation and introduction will take more time than similar topical introductions at the October GPAC meeting. The presentation will be followed by an opportunity to ask questions and a GPAC member discussion on considerations and priorities related to natural resources. We will remain in one group, rather than having multiple break out rooms.

Topic focused discussions will be agendaized for the next few GPAC meetings, including the December 15 meeting which will focus on historic resources and environmental justice. Early next year, strategy discussions will focus on hazard mitigation/climate adaptation and land use.

This series of GPAC discussions will inform initial drafts of GPU policy frameworks. Initial drafts will be refined in consultation with the GPAC and City staff in the coming months before informing broader community engagement activities to be held in 2023. Those initial frameworks along with community input will lay the groundwork for the initial Draft General Plan.

The GPAC was appointed by the City Council to serve as a diverse, multi-disciplinary group of community members dedicated to providing input on the General Plan. This City is very grateful for this work. Community members who are not on the GPAC will be invited to provide comments during General Public Comment as well as public comment on agenda items. Community members are also welcome to email comments for distribution to the GPAC. All written comments should be emailed to Christina Paul as the staff liaison to the GPAC.

As always, if you have any questions, please contact Christina Paul (cpaul@cityofpetaluma.org). Thank you!

Attachments:

Attachment A: Summary notes from the October 20, 2022 GPAC meeting

[Attachment B: Open Space and Natural Resources Report](#)