



CONNECTMENLO

menlo park land use & mobility update

Menlo Park General Plan and M-2 Zoning Update

General Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #1 Summary

General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) Meeting #1 was conducted on August 25, 2014 (6 – 9 pm) in the Oak Room at the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center, 600 Alma Street, Menlo Park.

GPAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Ray Mueller, City Council (Co-chair)
Peter Ohtaki, City Council (Co-chair)
Harry Bims, At-Large
David Bohannon, At-Large
Vince Bressler, Planning Commission
Heidi Butz, At-Large
James Cebrian, Parks and Recreation Commission
Kristin Duriseti, Environmental Quality Commission
Adina Levin, Transportation Commission
Roger Royse, At-Large
Katherine Strehl, Planning Commission
Michele Tate, Housing Commission
Matthew Zumstein, Bicycle Commission

CITY STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT

Leigh Prince, City Attorney's Office
Justin Murphy, Development Services Manager
Jim Cogan, Economic Development Manager
Nicole Nagaya, Interim Transportation Manager
Deanna Chow, Senior Planner
Charlie Knox, PlaceWorks
Rosie Dudley, PlaceWorks
Eric Panzer, PlaceWorks

MEETING PURPOSE

The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the GPAC members to the General Plan Update, provide an overview of the process to date, and get feedback on the community workshop agenda and materials. PlaceWorks Principal Charlie Knox welcomed everyone and asked committee members to introduce themselves and express their reasons for involvement. Charlie then provided a brief overview of the following:

- The City Council Direction for the Project
- GPAC Ground Rules
- Project Area, Milestones and Schedule
- Plans for Community Workshop #1

GPAC MEETING SUMMARY

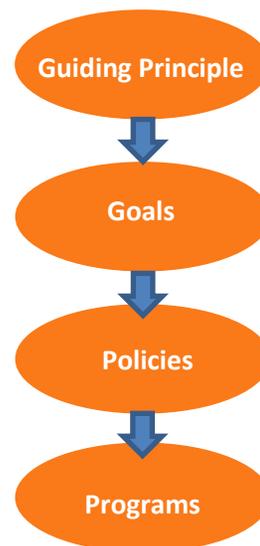
Leigh Prince of the City Attorney’s Office presented the Brown Act rules. Following her presentation, Charlie Knox walked the Committee through the project objectives and the proposed agenda for the first series of Community Workshops to take place in September. See the project website for a copy of this presentation: www.menlopark.org/connectmenlo

COMMENTS

Committee members were asked to provide feedback on each topic presented. Their comments and City staff and consultant’s responses follow according to topic.

Process

- Mayor Mueller reminded the Committee that development will not be halted while the General Plan update is underway.
- Katherine Strehl asked if other commissions will be invited to community workshops and events. Staff responded yes.
- Co-chair Peter Ohtaki inquired how to get the unengaged engaged in this process since people are busy, can’t always attend meetings, or may not have heard about it. Charlie responded that the engagement process will involve many approaches:
 - 1) Target faith-based and other community organizations and senior groups who may not be online;
 - 2) Provide an online forum and mobile app where people who don’t have time to come to the meetings can provide input; and
 - 3) Create an interactive online tool to show how each future land use “alternative” could impact/mitigate traffic, housing, jobs, etc.
- Vince Bressler asked how General Plans typically include policies and programs (as shown at right). Charlie provided examples of programs. Vince questioned whether the Plan would include funding sources and requested that the Committee be as specific as possible so the Plan gets the results the Committee wants at the end of the process. Charlie responded in agreement and clarified that the Plan will identify priorities for programs and funding sources, but will not provide the funding.
- James Cebrian asked how GPAC members should engage at the Community Workshops. Charlie responded that they will receive nametags that state they are part of the Advisory Committee and they should participate in the activities with the other attendees.



Schedule

- Adina Levin noted that the first symposium is scheduled on the first night of Rosh Hashanah and recommended it be moved. She also asked if events will be recorded and requested clarification on each symposium’s area of focus. Staff

GPAC MEETING SUMMARY

responded that the symposia are scheduled to take place in Council chambers so they can be recorded and will look into the possibility of changing dates.

- Mayor Mueller expressed concern that the schedule of meetings may invite politicking and suggested the committee not reach any recommendations until after the election. Staff responded that they will look into adjusting the schedule.
- Michele Tate inquired about what will take place between the end of the first online forum and the GPAC meeting #2. Charlie referred to the schedule and noted the mobile tours and the first symposium will take place during that time.

Workshop Materials

- Harry Bimms recommended the M-2 Area map (see next page) differentiate buildings that have been redeveloped in the past 5-10 years. He asked whether encouraging each small group at the community workshop to prioritize their top two principles statements could result in exclusion of important ideas. Charlie responded that all of the principles statements will be recorded and consolidated for the online forum for community members to consider.
- Kristin Duriseti questioned whether it is appropriate to supply participants with pre-established categories for organizing guiding principles:
 - Commercial Activity & Design
 - Neighborhood & Environmental Sustainability
 - Community Services & Quality of Life
 - Transportation, Connectivity & Mobility

Charlie explained that the categories help participants focus their efforts and that there will be “Open Topic” cards for groups that feel their statements might not fit one of these categories. The guiding principles will not need to fit a category, but they likely will reflect one or more.

Note: Only one member of the public was in attendance and did not comment.

GPAC MEETING SUMMARY



CITY OF
MENLO PARK
GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

M2 Planning Area