

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE
Citizens Advisory Committee
DRAFT ACTION MINUTES AND MEETING SUMMARY

The Citizens Advisory Committee met on January 26th in the Rinconada Library – Embarcadero Room at 5:30PM.

Present: Filppu, Garber, Glanckopf, Hitchings, Keller, Kleinhaus, Kou, Levy, Moran, Nadim, Packer, Peschcke-Koedt, Summa, Titus, Uang, Uhrbrock, Wenzlau , McNair, Fine

Absent: McDougall, Sung, Emberling, Hetterly and Van Riesen

Staff Present: Hillary Gitelman, Jeremy Dennis, Elena Lee, Robin Ellner, Sylvia Star-Lack, Gil Friend, Jessica Sullivan, and Andrew Hill (consultant)

Agenda Changes, Additions, and Deletions: None

Oral Communications:

Eileen McLaughlin – Speaking on behalf of the Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge. Recommend the removal of the ferry as an option anywhere in the Plan. Recommended instead to include language to provide connections to ferry service in Redwood City.

Gabriel Lewis – Expressed concern about policy to encourage alternative fuels. His concern is that some alternatives are not more sustainable than gasoline. Supporting alternative fuel use may be less sustainable than other transportation solutions and may also at worst encourage more single occupancy vehicle use.

Emily Renzel – Opposes bring a ferry boat to the Baylands and a railroad connection through the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge (Policies T-1.11.2 and T-1.11.1), projects that would negatively impact the bay.

Jeff Rensch – Finds that the draft element is generally good. But believes that the draft element is missing a clear sense of supporting greater density of smaller residential units near transit.

David Coale – Discussed the major things that are missing from Palo Alto per Dr. Heck of Stanford University. The items, charging for parking and mobility as a service, must happen at once. Also stated that the Bike and Ped Plan must be implemented faster.

Staff Comments:

Jeremy Dennis, Advance Planning Manager, introduced staff and provided clarification of the at-places memo. Mr. Dennis requested that online email conversations between subcommittees be limited to ensure that discussions happen in a public, transparent manner. He also stated that data requests by the CAC will be provided shortly. Mr. Dennis provided an update about the most recent and upcoming Council meetings, including the Council review of the Community Services and Facilities Element on February 8th, the Council retreat and a future hearing on the fifth scenario. He also stated that the Council hearing on housing would be rescheduled, but would likely not be a joint meeting with the CAC. Director Hillary Gitelman stated that staff would communicate to the Council of the CAC's interest in a joint meeting on housing. Mr. Dennis requested feedback if the CAC wanted to continue the production of the detailed matrix of CAC comments given that it takes a significant amount of staff and consultant time. Following a discussion, the CAC responded that the matrix should be continued for the Transportation and Land Use Element only. Mr. Dennis also requested the Sustainability subcommittee respond to a poll for possible meeting dates. He announced that the Transportation Element will be posted in the digital commenter for public review and feedback.

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Minutes:

Motion: Committee member Packer moved, second by Committee member Suma, to approve Action Minutes for December 15, 2015 CAC meeting.

Motion Passed: (17-0-4) (McDougall, Sung, Emberling, Hetterly and Van Riesen absent)

Discussion: Draft Transportation Element:

Co-chair Keller provided a process for comments and follow up comments on the draft Transportation Element. The Transportation Element Subcommittee members, Mark Nadim, Elaine Uang, Ellen Uhrbrock, Julia Moran, Bonnie Packer, and Jason Titus, provided a summary of the outcome of their discussion and items that needed further discussion. The CAC members discussed the draft Transportation Element in two rounds. Following the in-depth discussion, the subcommittee was tasked with synthesizing the discussion, identifying what the controversies are and determining how to resolve them for the next CAC meeting.

Feedback for Continuous Improvement:

The CAC discussed process improvement and how to make the discussion more productive.

Future Meetings:

February 8, 2016, City Council hearing on the Draft Community Services and Facilities Element, Council Chambers/City Hall

February 16, 2016, CAC meeting on the Land Use & Community Design Element, Mitchell Park Community Center