

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE
Citizens Advisory Committee
ACTION MINUTES AND MEETING SUMMARY

The Citizens Advisory Committee met on August 11th in the Mitchell Park Library – Midtown Room at 5:30PM.

Present: Garber, Hitchings, Jacobs, Keller, Kou, McDougall, Packer, Peschcke-Koedt, Van Riesen, Sung, Summa, Uang, Uhrbrock, Wenzlau, McNair, Fine, Emberling, Zelkha

Absent: Levy, Titus

Agenda Changes, Additions, and Deletions: None

Staff Comments:

Hillary Gitelman, Director of Planning and Community Environment provided an update on two Comprehensive Plan related items that will be discussed at the City Council level. On August 17th the City Council will be discussion the composition of the CAC members and will determine whether additional appointments are needed. On August 31st, the City Council will discuss the vision statement and related goals for the Community Services and Facilities Element and the Transportation Element.

Oral Communications:

Ken Horowitz – requested consideration of ways to preserve recreational opportunities. Specifically, he asked about the status of the former YMCA site on Page Mill Road.

Bruce Heister – spoke as a representative of Avenidas and encouraged expansion of services for seniors.

Annette Glanckopf – requested consideration of balance in programs for youth versus seniors.

Gabriel Lewis –provided specific comments on Policies C-2, C-7, and C-8.

Winter Dellenbach – requested a more inviting venue that will accommodate additional space and asked for meeting materials to be more accessible to the general public.

William Ross – asked a question about General Plan consistency as it relates to Palo Alto’s Charter. He also requested that a record be kept for CAC proceedings, outreach should be expanded to include large and that the public be given more than one day to provide their input.

Action Minutes: No Action items.

Discussion: Community Services and Facilities Element

Jeremy Dennis, Advance Planning Manager, introduced the Community Services and Facilities Element and discussed the items contained in the CAC’s agenda packet. Rob De Geus, Director of Community Services Department summarized staff’s involvement with the PTC’s recommended policies and programs. He also noted there are a few plans underway (Public Art Master Plan and the Parks, Trails, Open Space and Recreation Master Plan) and now there is an opportunity to include these in the Comp Plan Update.

The CAC’s discussion was structured around the five goals contained in the 1998 Comprehensive Plan but focused on the policies and programs. Several themes surfaced throughout the discussion:

- Terms should be defined throughout the element (i.e. teens, youth, children)
- Partnerships with a variety of stakeholders are important and should be retained. However, roles need to be defined and the partnerships should be mutual.
- In preparing the draft, consideration should be given to programs that have not been started or completed.

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- Equity needs to be factored throughout the Element; both in relation to the equitable distribution of resources throughout Palo Alto and the number of policies and programs for Seniors, Teens, and all.
- The use of “customers” versus “citizens” to describe the relationship between City staff and the community. The term should be defined and it should include developers,
- Cubberley should be identified as a community resource but needs improvement. What will the impact be to the services provided at Cubberley if it reverts back to a school.

Future Meetings:

At the beginning of the meeting Chair Garber requested that Staff place an action item on the September 8th CAC meeting naming Arthur Keller Co-Chair.