

General Plan Advisory Committee Meeting September 2, 2009 Meeting notes

The meeting was held at West Hollywood Park Auditorium and convened promptly at 6:30 p.m. City Manager Paul Arevalo welcomed and thanked the members of the committee for participating.

Community Development Director Anne McIntosh summarized the committee's charge and outlined the principles and process for the completion of the General Plan Update.

Project Manager Bianca Siegl made a presentation that outlined in greater detail the scope of the committee's charge, provided an overview of the form and function of General Plans in California, and described the status and next steps of the West Hollywood General Plan Update. A detailed summary of community demographics concluded the presentation.

Mayor Abbe Land stressed the importance of the committee's involvement in the General Plan Update Process and thanked them for their commitment.

General Plan Contract Planner Maria Rychlicki introduced a small group project, directing the committee to divide into six groups. The groups were provided a list of thirty one issues/comments that had been raised most often during the outreach phase, and were asked to select the five issues each group felt were most important. Following discussions within the six groups, each group was asked to report back to the full committee the five issues they determined most important to the General Plan Update. The groups each reported the six issues that were selected as most important. Staff tabulated the responses and those issues selected most often are listed below. (The numbers in parentheses reflect the number of groups that selected the issue.)

- Maintain tax base and revenue supply in order to support human and other services (5)
- Scale and intensity of new buildings (3)
- Transit-oriented development at strategic locations (3)
- Revitalization of housing stock (3)
- Quality of infill development in neighborhoods (2)
- New development that accommodates diverse income levels (2)
- Retention of rent-stabilized housing (2)
- Traffic congestion on major roadways (2)
- Parking in commercial areas (2)
- Parking in residential neighborhoods (2)
- Green spaces and open space (2)
- Importance of socio-economic diversity and community values (2)
- Public safety (2)
- Small and neighborhood-serving businesses (2)

Following a brief question and answer period and public comment, the meeting concluded at 8:00 p.m. There was one public speaker, Jeanne Dobrin, who spoke about the importance of the General Plan Update.

The next meeting of the General Plan Advisory Committee will be on October 7, 2009 at Plummer Park Rooms 5 & 6, at 6:30 PM.

The agenda, PowerPoint presentation and materials distributed to the committee at the September 2, 2009 meeting can be found on the City's website:
www.weho.org/generalplan.