

GPAC Meeting #3

Summary Notes

Meeting Date: September 7, 2023, 6 pm - 8 pm (Virtual)

Attendees:

- City Staff/Consultants: Guido Persicone, Alyson Hunter, Matt Raimi
- GPAC Members Present: Catina Smith, Cindy Burnham, Grace Silva-Santella, Gilia Baron, Sheila Baker, Mia Nyugen, Manjeet Dhillon, Wesley Haye
- GPAC Members Absent: Daniel Munoz, Maya Morrow, Richard Zhang

Overview

On September 7, the General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) for the Marina General Plan held its 3rd meeting. The purpose of the meeting was as follows:

- Discuss the Existing Conditions Reports
- Confirm the “Plan Drivers” (which are the key topics that will guide the development of the plan)
- Review of completed and upcoming community engagement activities

The following is a summary of the GPAC’s comments and feedback by topic.

Existing Conditions Report - “Plan Drivers”

Prior to the meeting, the General Plan Team provided GPAC members with 8 Existing Conditions Reports (ECR), which are technical documents that analyze a pertinent topic. These reports cover topics including land use and community character; parks, open space, trails, and public facilities; mobility; environmental justice and health; demographics and market assessment; safety and air quality; infrastructure and utilities; and natural conservation and habitat. In addition to the detailed reports, GPAC members were provided with “plan drivers” or conditions, events, and trends that are driving changes in Marina.

The following is the GPAC feedback on the information provided:

- No surprises related to the ECR data.
- All topics from the ECR are important and need to be addressed.
- No one topic from the ECR is more important than others.
- Marina has a lot of vacant or underutilized land, but there is a lot going on in the background related to development and future land use planning.

Vision

As a continuation of GPAC #2, the group reviewed the existing Marina General Plan guiding principles and vision statement. GPAC members provided feedback on their opinion of the existing materials and what could be changes or improved as part of the General Plan Update process.

- Less of a bedroom community
- Small town/small city
- Desire to achieve balance
 - i.e. tourism vs prioritizing residents
- Thoughtful growth
- Environmental sustainability
- Forward thinking/regional leader (what we want to be, not what we were)
 - Last vision statement was generated in a time of true change and near-crisis (Fort Ord had closed)
 - Words like “trail blazers”, don’t want to just be old and mature, want to be innovative
- Capture more aspirational tone
- Concept of diversity within the community as a strength

Public Comments

Near the end of the meeting, public comment was open to any who wished to share. An elected official who joined the meeting provided the following comments.

- How do we address health and environmental justice issues related to our physical location?

Next Steps

The next meeting (GPAC #4) will be on vision, guiding principles, and land use areas of discussion and will be held on October 5th.