



General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC)

Minutes

Location: City of Mesa Lower Level Council Chambers
57 E. 1st Street

Date: May 8th, 2023 Time: 4:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ron Williams, Chair
Scott Thomas, Vice-Chair
Jessica Sarkissian
Jocelyn Skogebo

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ivonne Garcia Rodriguez
Sarah Frechette
Megan Neal

STAFF PRESENT:

Jeff Robbins
Mary Kopaskie-Brown
Rachel Nettles
Kellie Rorex
Brett Hanlon

GUESTS:

Terri Hogan, Logan Simpson
Megan Moore, Logan Simpson

1. Call meeting to order.

Vice-Chair Scott called the meeting to order at 4:36 pm.

2. Approval of the minutes from the March 27, 2023 General Plan Advisory Committee meeting.

Vice-Chair Scott called for the approval of minutes from the March 27, 2023 meeting. Committee Member Sarkissian motioned, and Committee Member Skogebo seconded the motion.

Upon tabulation of the votes, it showed:

AYES: Williams, Sarkissian, Skogebo, Thomas

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Garcia Rodriguez, Frechette, Neal

2. Hear a presentation and discuss public engagement results and preliminary existing conditions.

Mr. Robbins welcomed the committee to the meeting and introduced himself and Planning Director Mary Kopaskie-Brown. He said that they would hear a presentation on the overall process update, the engagement results, existing conditions overview and then Mary would lead a discussion on the vision statement and guiding principles.

Mr. Robbins reviewed the process saying that the community context and vision setting phases of the project are complete. The GPAC approval of the vision and guiding principles is an important milestone and the City Council will consider the statements at the May 25th City Council Study Session with the intent of not approving them, but allowing them to be further reviewed by the public. Mr. Robbins said looking ahead we are looking to have our large public meetings June 28th to July 10th but these dates are not confirmed yet and staff would let the GPAC know. The final review will occur at the end of the year with Mesa City Council approval in 2024.

Mr. Robbins reviewed the engagement numbers saying that we have over 10,000 people engaged in one way or another and reviewed each of the other numbers the City is tracking for engagement. These numbers are intentionally conservative and do not represent the number of people who are aware of the General Plan Update. We are only tracking meaningful engagements.

Chair Williams asked if this was what we were expecting in terms of engagement numbers. Mr. Robbins explained that its difficult to benchmark because we have never done anything exactly like this with the technology that we have today, but the largest public engagement project he was aware of in the last ten years, Imagine Mesa, had 10,000 participants. Based on our current progress, we are hoping for 6,000 respondents to our questionnaires, or about 2,000 responses per questionnaire, allowing the same individual to respond to each questionnaire.

Mr. Robbins described the structure of the General Plan Update with the Vision being the highest level and the three themes nest below the vision and 12 principles will nest below those. We are very excited to bring actionable details for each policy which is an improvement to the current plan. Mr. Robbins said that Mary would explain more later in the presentation.

Mr. Robbins showed a slide on the topics covered in the existing conditions report and said that the full report is not ready but would be in the coming days. He said that Mesa has a strong strategic location. Mr. Robbins showed several slides with examples of existing conditions for the Land, the People and the Economy, the three themes of the General Plan. Committee Member Sarkissian asked if our jobs per capita number included work from home. Staff attempted to ask the consultant but there was a technical difficulty with the consultant who was attending virtually and staff said they would look into it. There were no further comments or discussion.

3. Hear a presentation, discuss, and take action on vision and guiding principles.

Ms. Kopaskie-Brown briefly walked through the structure of the plan again and explained that the statements were derived from our Technical Advisory Committee, Department head feedback and City Manager input. On the Environment Natural Resources and Open Space/Recreation slide, Ms. Kopaskie-Brown mentioned that based on city management feedback we would split Environment and natural resources from open space and recreation. The Committee said that makes sense. On the Economic Development slide, Mr. Robbins said that placemaking would be removed and moved to a policy since it is a supporting activity. Various Committee members said that that

made sense and some community members might not know what that means. Committee member Skogebo said that she did not know what placemaking meant. Jeff Robbins said that placemaking was like the falcon and fiesta district monuments and giving an area a distinct feel, similar to the gas lamp district of San Diego.

Committee member Sarkissian asked if Legal had reviewed the vision and guiding principle statements. Staff said no. She said that she was concerned with the words provide, ensure and invest because some boards in her experience had been advised that these words could imply an obligation to pay for certain things. Ms. Kopaskie-Brown said that in some cases the City is providing, such as facilities, but in others statements where the City is not directly providing a service there may be a better word and staff would look into it. There was no further discussion from the Committee.

Chair Williams said he would entertain a motion. Committee member Sarkissian motioned to recommend to the Mesa City Council approval of the 2050 General Plan draft vision statement and draft guiding principles.

Chair Williams said that we may want to include our comments in the recommendation. Committee Member Sarkissian amended her motion to include recommendation with the Committee's comments. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Thomas.

Upon tabulation of the votes, it showed:

AYES: Williams, Sarkissian, Skogebo, Thomas

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Garcia Rodriguez, Frechette, Neal

4. Items from citizens present.

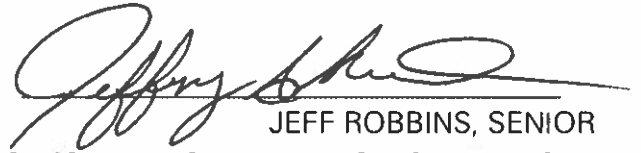
Marilyn Crosby, President of Lehi Community Association, spoke about their community's continual interest and input into the General Plan Update. She would like the community to look at words of the vision and guiding principles so that they are more unique to Mesa. She also indicated that the community understands what bonds are and not all of the community is supportive of bonds.

5. Adjournment.

Without objection, the General Plan Advisory Committee adjourned at 5:24 pm.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the General Plan Advisory Committee meeting of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 9th day of

January 2023. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Robbins", is written over a horizontal line.

JEFF ROBBINS, SENIOR
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT MANAGER