

THESE MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE
CULVER CITY GENERAL PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULVER CITY GENERAL PLAN
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

January 9, 2020
7:00 P.M.

Call To Order & Roll Call

The regular meeting of the Culver City General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) was called to order at 7:04 P.M. at the Senior Center.

Members Present: Patricia Bijvoet, Member
Cicely Bingener, Member
Peter Capone-Newton, Member
Diana Hernandez, Member
Ken Mand, Member
Yasmine-Imani McMorris, Vice-Chair
Scott Malsin, Member
Wally Marks, Member
Jeanne Min, Member
Sierra Smith, Member (*Arrived at 7:06*)
Kristen Torres Pawling, Member
Freddy Puza, Member
Denice Renteria, Member
Frances Rosenau, Chair
Jamie Wallace, Member
Noah Zatz, Member

Members Absent: Manjit Asrani, Member
Paavo Monkkonen, Member
Laura Stuart, Member
Claudia Vizcarra, Member
Andrew Weissman, Member

Staff Present: Sol Blumenfeld, Community Development
Director
Ashley Hefner, Advance Planning
Manager (Secretary)
Lisa Pangelinan, Senior Management
Analyst
Lauren Marsiglia, Associate Planner
Tracy Bromwich, Planning Technician II

Consultant Present: Matt Raimi, Consultant Team

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Public Comment for Items NOT On the Agenda

Secretary Hefner invited public comment. No speakers came forward and no cards were received.

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Consent Calendar Items

Item C-1

Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 29, 2019

MOVED BY MEMBER WALLACE, SECONDED BY CHAIR ROSENAU AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 29, 2019 ARE APPROVED (ABSENT MEMBERS ASRANI, MONKKONNEN, SMITH, STUART, VIZCARRA, WEISSMAN; MEMBERS MALSIN, MARKS, TORRES PAWLING ABSTAINED).

Member Smith arrived.

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Action Items

Item A-1

1. Review of GPAC Rules and Role

Matt Raimi thanked the Members who met with staff before the meeting to discuss the GPAC role in the General Plan Update (GPU) process and meeting logistics, stated the goal of and explained the ground rules and their importance in helping the GPU process move forward, explained that staff will go over the ground rules at each meeting, and invited the Members to make suggestions to the ground rules throughout the GPU process.

Raimi led an icebreaker activity in which Members paired up and asked each other what they love about the city, what fears they have about the future, and to introduce each other to the group, describing what they have in common. What the Members love about Culver City include its diversity, open spaces and parks, neighborhoods, small-town feel, sense of connectedness, sense of excitement, city government responsiveness, the look of downtown, unique layout of the city, walkability and bikeability, shops, accessible amenities, cultural amenities, nonprofit sector, and school district.

Some of the fears the Members shared include the rising housing costs and impacts to socioeconomic diversity, whether people of color feel safe in Culver City, overcrowding, continuous development even though the city already feels crowded and losing the sense of connectedness and charm, the future for children, and environmental sustainability. Some Members expressed excitement about the future and the positive things that are happening, want equity for all to live in the city and enjoy it, and are frustrated with traffic. Raimi thanked the Members for participating in the activity.

Raimi explained the GPAC's roles and responsibilities; the community feedback process; and the relationship between the GPAC, Planning Commission, and City Council.

2. Receipt of a Presentation on the City Development Process

Sol Blumenfeld, Community Development Department Director, presented on the development process in Culver City, including the regulatory framework, discretionary review, and code compliance. Blumenfeld explained that development projects are evaluated based on the General Plan and Zoning Code, the relationship between the Advance Planning and Current Planning Divisions in the Community Development Department, that the City has design guidelines for certain areas, and the public review process for projects.

Discussion ensued between Members and staff about the City government role in new development, relationship between the General Plan and federal and state mandates, issues and opportunities with updating the General Plan and its corresponding environmental document, and how the GPU will affect the design of public spaces and right of ways. Blumenfeld stated that after the GPU is adopted, the City will update the Zoning Code to ensure they are consistent with each other.

3. Brainstorm on Issues and Opportunities

Raimi led a brainstorming exercise on Culver City's issues and opportunities on various topics. The following prompts were asked and ideas documented.

What is unique and special about Culver City? Its historic buildings, theaters, museums, art studios, religious diversity, walkability, school system, government staff responsiveness, parks, Ballona Creek, recreational opportunities, Stoneview Nature Center, connection to Los Angeles, creative arts district, character, aesthetics, Expo Line, bike paths, bus system, Jackson Market, and that high-end corporations are coming to city.

What are key issues that Culver City is facing now and in the future? To improve the relations between the Police Department and minority communities, how welcome people of color are and feel, safety along Ballona Creek, road conditions, traffic, the lack of trust with government, first responder response times considering new development, climate change adaptability/resiliency and sustainability, access to healthy food, supporting of small businesses, the jobs-housing balance, and access to affordable, housing options.

If you could change one thing about Culver City, what would it be? Increased access to light rail; the public transportation system; City government language barriers; making the city dog-friendly; boosting the commercial zones; ensuring there is adequate historic preservation; providing more mixed-use development; increasing lighting in parks; and increasing the number of parks and plazas.

Raimi asked whether the responses resonated. A discussion ensued that for decisions on all topics addressed in the GPU, city identity, the high-quality school district, and geographical context will be important to consider.

4. Receipt of an Update on the GPU Schedule and Upcoming Activities

Raimi explained that the GPU is still in its early stages and that staff will review what goes in a general plan and what does not. Discussion ensued between Members and staff about what the Environmental Impact Review (EIR) will analyze. Raimi encouraged Members to promote the Visioning Festival and asked that the Members think about what they think the vision and guiding principles of the general plan should be. Discussion ensued between Members and staff about the difference between regular and special meetings and when the upcoming meetings will be.

Secretary Hefner invited public comment.

Johanna Gullick lives in Higuera Tract and asked whether the GPU horizon year of 2040 should be revised to 2030.

Discussion ensued between Members and staff about having a digital library for Members to share ideas and resources. Secretary Hefner stated that a digital library would be a good idea and that she would investigate options.

David Metzler suggested that the GPAC meetings be held in gathering places or at events like the Ballona Festival. Raimi stated that there will be opportunities to intentionally involve the community in the process at public events around the city, but the GPAC meetings will be held in the Senior Center.

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Public Comment for Items NOT On the Agenda

Secretary Hefner invited public comment. No speakers came forward and no cards were received.

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Receipt of Correspondence

Secretary Hefner stated that none was received.

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Items from Members/Staff/Consultants

Secretary Hefner invited the Members to look at the new GPU project website and let others know about it; announced the next speaker series events; and asked the Members to review the revised Bylaws and let her know by January 28 if they want to agendize a discussion for review before going to City Council.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 9:11 P.M., the General Plan Advisory Committee adjourned to a special meeting on February 13, 2020, at 7:00 P.M.

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Ashley Hefner
SECRETARY of the Culver City General Plan Advisory Committee
Culver City, California

APPROVED _____

Frances Rosenau
CHAIR of the Culver City General Plan Advisory Committee
Culver City, California

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that, on the date below written, these minutes were filed in the Office of the City Clerk, Culver City, California and constitute the Official Minutes of said meeting.

Jeremy Green
CITY CLERK

Date