



City of Palmdale General Plan Update General Plan Advisory Committee

Meeting #1: June 5, 2019 | 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Chimbole Cultural Center “Lilac Room”

Meeting Minutes

Objectives

- Initiate the General Plan Advisory Committee.
- Discuss the roles and responsibilities of the General Plan Advisory Committee.
- Provide an overview of the General Plan project.
- Brainstorm on the key issues and opportunities in the City of Palmdale.

Attendees

GPAC Members

Present: Tony Avila, Juan Blanco, Colby Estes (Alternate), Lourdes T. Everett, Laura Gordon (Alternate), Theresa Hambro, Matthew Harris, Dean Henderson, Aurora Hernandez, Pat Hunt, Sheri Kaneshiro, Teresa Lamping, Joe Parisio, Deborah Rutkowski-Hines, Jason Zink

Absent: None

City Staff

Rob Bruce, Planning Manager, Department of Economic and Community Development
Lynn O’Brien, Administrative Assistant, Department of Economic and Community Development
Noel Doran, Assistant City Attorney

Consultant Team

Raimi + Associates – Matt Raimi, Simran Malhotra, Melissa Stark

Meeting Minutes

Introduction and Welcome

Rob Bruce, Planning Manager, welcomed the GPAC members. GPAC members introduced themselves and shared one personal account of living in Palmdale.

Oath and Affirmations

Members were sworn in by Lynn O’Brien, Administrative Assistant, and signed two copies of the Oath.

GPAC Roles and Responsibilities

Matt Raimi provided a brief overview of the role and responsibilities of the Advisory Committee. Ground rules for participation were also covered. Additional Ground Rules suggested by the Committee members include:

- No phone use, if must, step outside
- Send out names and contacts of consultant team
- Be on time and respect everyone else's time

Ralph M. Brown Act Training

Noel Doran, Assistant City Attorney, presented information and answered questions regarding the Brown Act.

Overview of the General Plan Presentation

The consultant team provided a brief demographic overview of the City, a summary of what a General Plan is, key components of the Palmdale General Plan Update, the project schedule and community engagement approach.

Key Issues and Opportunities

The consultant team posed three questions to the Committee. A summary of responses are as follows:

1. *What is special and unique about Palmdale that should be preserved during the General Plan update process?*

- Plant 42 is special and needs to be preserved
- Rural suburban lifestyle and low density
- Openness
- Lack of traffic congestion
- Nature needs to be preserved
- Free parking and ease of getting around town
- Small-town community

2. *What are the key issues that the City is facing now and in the future?*

- Population influx and housing needs
- Circulation
- Transportation
- Abandoned buildings that lead to crime and negative perception of Palmdale
- No downtown district
- Forgotten child of Los Angeles County
- Residents leave the City for work

3. *If you could change one thing about Palmdale, what would it be?*

- Improve public transit like buses
- Raise the standards – visually nicer, more walkways, safer biking
- Create a mixed use district that is centralized with businesses and housing
- Pedestrian friendly environment

- Infill development
- Create a downtown
- Bring jobs
- Improve the stigma about Palmdale – people are hesitant to invest here
- Remove state highway from Palmdale Blvd
- Make Palmdale Airport viable
- Bring a four-year university to Palmdale
- Save brick-and mortar retailers

Wrap-up and Next Steps

Adjourn and group photo at 8:35 pm