

Ridgecrest General Plan Update

Meeting Minutes

June 26, 2007

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Ridgecrest City Council Chambers

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm

Present: Chair Jerry Taylor, Vice-Chair Jim Smith, Lois Beres, Ruth Cooper, Eric Kauffman, Mike Biddlingmeier, Nellavan Jeglum, Joanna Rummer, Andy Kilikauskas, Craig Porter, Jim Fallgatter, John O’Gara, Sharon Paxton, Chuck Roulund.

Absent: Howard Laire

Staff Present: City Planner Matthew Alexander, Public Services Director Jim McRea, Administrative Secretary Danielle Valentine

2. Minutes

A motion was moved by Vice-Chair Smith and seconded by Member Jeglum to approve the minutes as submitted. The minutes were approved as submitted.

3. Map Atlas – Ridgecrest Today

City Planner Matthew Alexander reviewed the Map Atlas provided last meeting. He advised that the consultants, Matrix Design Group, did not have the next version – inclusive of revisions - ready for this GPAC Workshop but would have the entire atlas ready for the next Workshop.

Planner Alexander provided handouts to members:

- (1) Existing Land Use Map. Planner Alexander noted this map would be particularly useful given that there had been considerable discussion regarding infill.
- (2) Existing Land Use Data. Planner Alexander noted that at present there wasn’t incentive for the City to annex land for redevelopment due to the current tax agreement with the County. He referred to recent coverage of the topic in the media.

Member Jeglum asked if the agreement was negotiable and Planner Alexander responded referring to County of Kern First District Supervisor Jon McQuiston’s recent comments at the City Council Meeting on 20th June 2007.

Planner Alexander went on to say that of the 2,397 acres of vacant land approximately 600 acres was committed to approved tentative tract maps.

Member Jeglum noted a discrepancy between the vacant land acreage on handout (1) versus hand out (2). Planner Alexander advised members to refer to handout (2).

Member Roulund asked if the City Limits included the Base and Planner Alexander confirmed it did. Public Services Director Jim McRea gave further clarification and there was discussion back and forth regarding the merits of including Base land in the City figures given that the City had little if any influence over the usage of such land. Planner Alexander noted that it was possible that some of the land may be able to be developed but acknowledged that this was only a small percentage.

Public Services Director Jim McRea suggested that the land be identified as a Federal Reserve as it contained 5 schools and Member Fallgatter suggested that the school land be moved to the Institutional Use category.

Member Fallgatter indicated that the Committee would like to see more granular statistics.

Chairman Taylor summarized suggesting that the land be presented in multiple column formats – anything that would effectively extract the detailed information required by members. He then asked if the Land Use Map showed undeveloped land. Planner Alexander explained it was shown in light beige however after discussion there was general agreement that vacant land should be shown in a contrasting color so that upon initial review it was evident where vacant land sat. Chair Taylor then provided a copy of a Land Use Map provided by the County Assessor showing vacant land as white.

4. General Plan GPAC Subcommittees

Chairman Taylor asked Sub-Committee Chairman if they had any questions for staff before they broke into their groups for discussion.

Member Kilikauskas asked for data on how many acres of land/open space other cities of similar size and/or up to a population of 50,000 have. He also asked for data on costs to maintain those areas and how that cost might be calculated.

Chairman Taylor asked if the Conservation, Open Space, Parks and Recreation Subcommittee would like the Parks Recreation and Cultural Affairs Director, Jim Ponek, to attend the next GPAC Workshop. Member Kilikauskas responded that it would not be necessary for Mr. Ponek to attend, however he would be appreciative if the data were available at the next Workshop.

Public Services Director Jim McRea stated that the California Parks and Recreation Society would have the data requested by the Subcommittee.

Member Rummer enquired as to the procedure for Subcommittees sourcing data and Planner Alexander explained that he would be the first point of contact for any materials or data needed by the Subcommittees. Chairman Taylor asked if as part of the process of responding to requests from the Subcommittees that Planner Alexander also provide timelines for receipt of materials and/or data noting that at times Planner Alexander would need to source such information from other organizations.

Member Roulund asked Planner Alexander if he required a schedule from Subcommittees indicating milestones and timelines. Planner Alexander responded in the affirmative indicating that this was something he also intended to instigate with the consultants, Matrix Design Group. Chairman Taylor then asked that the Subcommittees address their Schedule Plan when they broke off for their meetings and asked each group to return for review at 6:30 p.m.

Subcommittees broke into their groups for discussion at 6:05 p.m.

5. GPAC Subcommittee Reports

Chair Taylor asked Subcommittee Chairpersons to report to the Committee.

Conservation, Open Space, Parks and Recreation

Member Kilikauskas advised the Subcommittee discussed the following topics:

- Linear parks - Bowman Channel, one to run north/south on Brady and one on the eastern side of the city
- Regional park on the eastern side of the City near the Fire Station
- Developers - shallower sumps and walking paths
- Bike lanes on arterial streets
- Landscape water ordinance for water conservation
- Households generating power through windmills/solar panels

Military Sustainability

Member Jeglum advised the subcommittee would like the following documentation:

- Kern County Land Use Compatibility Plan for IWV and China Lake
- AB 1462 and 1468 – legislative action requiring cities to talk to military facilities
- General Plan Map for Fairfield

Military Sustainability will meet each fourth Tuesday at 4:30 p.m.

Land Use and Circulation

Member Roulund advised that Subcommittee members outlined a framework for short/medium and long term goals and undertook individual action items including:

- Understanding the flight corridor
- Infill – how this should be addressed
- Net loss for City to annex versus allowing County to develop land

Land Use and Circulation will meet each fourth Tuesday at 4:30 p.m.

6. Public Comments

Chair Taylor opened the floor for Public Comment at 6:42 p.m.

None.

7. GPAC Member Comments

Member Roulund encouraged all Members to visit Greenacres Mobile Home Park to see how important it is to plan. He stated "I believe if you do not one of you will not be shocked".

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.