

Ridgecrest General Plan Update

Meeting Minutes

September 25, 2007
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM
Ridgecrest City Council Chambers

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

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

Apology from Chair Jerry Taylor for his absences in the recent past – due to knee surgery.

Agenda

Chair Jerry Taylor advised that City Planner Matthew Alexander would like to amend the Agenda.

Planner Alexander firstly asked to present a slide showing a summary of data compiled from the 28th August GPAC meeting concerning Land Use & Policy Preferences. The slide showed that Military Compatibility was the highest ranking Policy Preference.

2. Land Use and Policy Choices

Planner Alexander then went on to introduce an Alternative Land Use Concept Exercise. He asked GPAC members to break into their sub-groups and discuss the four maps provided by Matrix Consultants representing a consensus of the five Alternative Concepts garnered from a previous meeting.

Each group received a large summary map and was asked to complete an Alternative Land Use Concept Exercise as follows:

- Identify preferred common elements
- Identify neighborhoods
- Select favorites
- How to handle commercial
- How to handle employment centers, trails, mixed use, etc.

Lois Beres asked for an indication of what percentage would be good for the City of Ridgecrest in terms of high density housing – bearing in mind the concern for a continuation of rural theme.

Planner Alexander suggested 20% would be appropriate.

Jim Fallgatter queried what "favorites" referred to?

Planner Alexander responded saying that using the four concepts presented committee members (in their sub-groups) should choose which would be most favorable and then elaborate on the chosen map.

THE COMMITTEE BROKE INTO THEIR SUB-GROUPS AT 5.45 P.M. AND RETURNED TO REPORT AT 6.40 P.M.

Jim Fallgatter spoke on behalf of the Land Use Sub-Committee

"The Future of the city is bounded by San Bernardino line and flight path to the east. Therefore considering that the Base lies to the North, growth can happen to the south and west. We chose to take portions of each Infill Map and combine them as we felt the following were important to the City:"

Undeveloped property around College Heights to be incorporated.

Commercial – some inside a master plan community, High Haven deemed as commercial.

Some BLM land to be included into City.

New schools to be located on BLM land.

A High Density area has already been approved along Dolphin and Bataan out to Sunland and we understand that the old trailer park might also be high density.

36 hole golf course on the hill.

Nellavan Jeglum spoke on behalf of the Military Sub-Committee

"We chose Infill 2 as it would be most in line with protecting the base's mission. Where we came from was that we are here to change the General Plan into something better suited to the growth of the community and the future that we have and so we would like to see the General Plan laid out and some of these thoughts and ideas overlaid on that to represent what could or couldn't or should or shouldn't because we are not here to re-invent the wheel and so unless we know what we are dealing with in reality its silly. I think it would make our time more efficient and our planning more realistic."

Andy Kilikauskas spoke on behalf of the Parks Sub-Committee

"We were looking at all 4 options and all had good things. We ended up with the West expansion and pulled some other items into that. We have a commercial area in place in lieu and then in future out along Bowman Road and along 395. Since we are Parks and Recreation Sub-Committee. The first thing is a park in the Ridgecrest Heights area – as there is none. We like the South expansion green belt and so we bought that over into the West expansion. We liked the general idea of the east-west and south being low density rural residential. We like the idea of master plan communities and so we pulled that across also. We like the idea of mixed use but thought it more appropriate in the new Wal-Mart area.

3. Refinement of Land Use Alternatives

Next month there will be a further refinement of what was looked at tonight and certainly we are aware of what Nellavan spoke about and will hopefully incorporate that into the discussion.

4. Public Comments

None.

5. GPAC Member Comments

None.

6. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6.50 p.m.