

GPAC Meeting #1

Summary Notes

Meeting Date: April 4, 2023, 6 pm - 8 pm

Attendees:

- City Staff/Consultants: Guido Persicone, Alyson Hunter, Matt Raimi
- GPAC Members Absent: Daniel Munoz and Manjeet Dhillon
- GPAC Members Present: Wesley Haye, Catina Smith, Cindy Burnham, Grace Silva-Santella, Gilia Baron, Richard Zhang, Maya Morrow, Sheila Baker, Mia Nyugen

Overview

On April 4, 2023, the General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) held its first meeting. The purpose of the meeting was as follows:

- Initiate the General Plan Advisory Committee.
- Discuss the roles and responsibilities of the General Plan Advisory Committee.
- Provide background information on General Plans and other planning documents.
- Provide an overview of the General Plan Update, including the schedule and engagement plan.
- Brainstorm on Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT)

The following is a summary of the GPAC's comments and feedback by topic.

Engagement

The General Plan team provided an overview of the Engagement Plan. The following are the GPAC's comments:

- Coordinate engagement with the Sea Haven community. Hold a workshop in their community room and they have a newsletter to announce meetings.
- Hand out information at the Friends of Marina Library meetings. The meetings occur two times per month.
- Reach youth by holding meetings and pop-up workshops at the Teen Center. A "vision board" at the Teen Center was suggested.
- Reach out to the Principals at the schools to set up meetings with students.
- Outreach through HOAs, churches, the Veterans Center, and the Montage Wellness Center.

Strengths

The GPAC was asked to brainstorm on the strengths and unique aspects of Marina. The following is a summary of the comments.

- Diversity of residents
- Geographic diversity
- Easy access to goods and services

- The airport (however, there are also potential issues of noise from growth)
- Lots of quality small businesses
- It's a working class community
- Good police and law enforcement
- Access to nature – the ocean and lots of open spaces in the former Fort Ord
- Great ethnic restaurants
- Lower cost of living
- The community is very walkable and people walk around a lot
- It has a “small town” feel
- Sense of community
- The bike trails through and near the City are extensive
- Strong veterans community
- The VA clinic is new and draws people from the greater area
- The Teen Center and skate park
- There is a lot of history with Fort Ord
- Equestrian center
- Montage Wellness Center
- Great weather
- Strong non-profit organizations are active in the City
- The Urban Growth Boundary
- The city is completing the Downtown Plan
- There are not a lot of impacts from natural disasters
- Strong infrastructure
- Fast access to highway 101

Weaknesses/Threats

The GPAC was asked to brainstorm on the weaknesses, threats and issues that the City is facing now and in the future. The following is a summary of the comments.

- The desalination plant (and the process of approval) is an issue
- Bad connectivity between the north and south parts of the city
- Traffic is a big issue, especially on Imjin Parkway
- The City is growing faster than the infrastructure can be built to support the growth
- There is a drop in the youth population
- Gateways/entryways are needed to help enhance identity
- The SURF BRT is an issue
- Marina has little power over regional decisions
- The community is “auto centric” and this creates pedestrian safety and mobility issues, especially for handicapped residents/visitors
- Hard to attract new businesses
- City needs “character” and “identity”
- The visual appearance of the city should be more attractive
- There are odors from the landfill
- No artistic community exists
- Need a central meeting/gathering space; there is no center of the community (like a Downtown)

Next Steps

The next meeting (GPAC #2) will be held on Thursday, June 1st, from 6-8 pm at the same location (in-person).