

General Plan Community Forum

Group Notes

Saturday, June 23, 2012

Pasadena City College, Creveling Lounge

TABLE 2: Policies

Session 1

- Education – Connect to General Plan thru
 - Mobility
 - Air Quality
 - Open Space
 - Land Use
- Sustainability – Make sure that it is applied to different policies (with 3 E's – Economics, Environment, Equity)
- Neighborhood Village center – higher residential
 - Preserve and protect single family neighborhoods

Session 2

- Focus on school district
- Shared use of facilities
 - Develop/create ways to interface with PUSD; facilities' use by community
- Address PUSD specifically
 - Sharing of facilities between public and private schools – more integrated with the community
- PUSD is one of the biggest real estate owners
- 8th Guiding Principle – consistent with other Guiding Principles
 - Education – covers public education
- Form-based zoning in Central District
- How about positive change?
 - Some areas will eventually become historic areas – expansion of historic districts
 - Some school sites are potential historic resources (historic preservation)
 - Context of new development with neighboring areas
 - Building height
- 8th Guiding Principle – connect historic preservation and school sites/buildings
 - School district should also support the Guiding Principle
 - Neighborhood connection with the schools
 - Schools as part of neighborhoods
- Affordable housing at all levels

- Balance historic preservation and other concerns (new development, jobs, affordable housing, etc.)

TABLE 4: Central District & South Fair Oaks

Session 1

- What is “infill” development?
 - “California law qualifies a site as infill if the site is in an urbanized area and has been ‘previously developed for qualified urban uses’ or is located adjacent to parcels that are developed with ‘qualified urban uses’ or has a minimum of seventy five percent of the surrounding land developed with ‘qualified urban uses (California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)).” (Source: Center for Creative Land Recycling)
- Historic buildings – 1920s+
 - Some 3+ stories
- C.D. – how does its projected growth compare to other areas?
- Locations for new open space?
- C.D. – why would VMTs per capita increase?
- Lack of parking (costs) for customers and visitors
- Concern about proposed decrease in FAR and height – Walnut, Fair Oaks, Chestnut, Raymond
 - Too restrictive for viable economic development opportunities S. Arroyo and Fair Oaks between Del Mar and Green
 - Stats block
- More subterranean parking desired; less parking on streets/surface
 - To facilitate pedestrian and bicycle transit
- More residential and office development desired at Playhouse and S. Lake – more people means vibrancy, vitality, and activity
- Nodes – more pocket parks, gathering spaces, public spaces (on private and public land)
- Height averaging 6 or 7 stories allowed on S. Lake Avenue?

Session 2

- Green/open space/landscaping needed at Lake and Colorado Blvd (how would it be applied?)
- Affordable housing
- C.D. – open space and design, less density, accessible open space by developers
- Health impact/air quality, need higher standards for residences along freeway
- More flexible to address future knowledge (studies)
- Nina C. – strongly supports form-based codes in the C.D. including parcel by parcel analysis
- Better feedback increase housing/reduce VMT

- More intensity along Fillmore & C.D.-6

TABLE 5: East Pasadena & East Colorado

Session 1

- Need to deal with TOD parking standards
- Entertainment and service uses are missing – needed for village
- Consider integrating density – less nodal and more consistent height
- Entertainment in Lamanda Park and connection to transit node needed (E. Pasadena)
- Isolated restaurants and services not successful
- Bicycles to link areas (Lamanda – E. Pasadena)
- Putting in more housing is short sighted (folks without jobs)
- Flexibility with mix of uses important
- Mobility biggest problem, need for parking for autos regardless
- Concern that transit village is large enough with enough connectivity to neighborhood
- Flexible hours of operation
- Allen Station a potential growth area
- Traffic impact at Sierra Madre/Foothill intersection

Session 2

- Height next to freeway okay
- Development should not wipe out trees
- Concerned about quality of landscaping
- Overflow parking from TOD standards into SFR neighborhoods
- Air quality – housing next to freeway and people is a health impact
- Bus terminal not pedestrian friendly, go through cactus garden to avoid street
- Traffic at Sierra Madre Villa/Foothill intersection bad
- Too much housing may worsen traffic
- Better mobility from Caltech to Colorado, need to consider bike mobility
- As density intensifies, need to maintain efficient traffic flow across freeway
- Consider requiring affordable housing to be built onsite
- Consider reducing number of auto travel lanes on Colorado Blvd to make room for bike lanes

TABLE 6: North Lake & Washington

Session 1

I. Round 1

- How do you link N. Lake and Washington on a more walkable basis?
 - Modify ARTS bus route, make it a figure 8?

- E. Washington parking – minimize spillage into neighborhoods, prevent teardowns, park once concept, diagonal parking (slows down traffic)
- How do you get businesses to revitalize and reinvest in E. Washington?
- State of Washington Theater – preserve or demolish?
- Make E. Washington a place where nearby SFR want to go
- Lake center median landscaping has beautified corridor
- Parking – combo sun shade solar?
 - What is being done to prevent urban heat sink?
- Preserve Lake viewshed – Incorporate form-based code

II. Round 2

- Is there density to support neighborhood-serving amenities and retail?
- Look at Lake holistically – prevent areas that are deserted, ground floor retail all along corridor will be better for SFR
 - Consistent density or less drastic change in density
 - What is the parking situation? Need a structure to avoid lots near homes
 - Focus on mobility, do away with parking lots, transitions from residential to Lake businesses, aesthetics
 - Likes the concept of Del Mar station

Session 2

I. Round 1

- Who pays for increased amenities?
- Home-based businesses – does not want negative impacts on people who work from home
- Could see greater reduction in electricity/water when policies included
- Cannot be too prescriptive (ex. E. Washington) – how does the plan change it?
- Area with a lot of home businesses, incubator areas at E. Washington?

II. Round 2

- Parking – underground? Behind businesses? There are tradeoffs with SFR
- Parking takes away from public space aspect
- No palm trees on Lake, need native trees that set character
- Continuity between jurisdictions, need to have conversation
- Consider increased density and its effects on traffic (Lake is already very congested)
 - Nodes and traffic
- Concern over what is going to be at these nodes
 - “Mom and Pop” shops vs. Ben & Jerry’s or Gap
- Who are the users in this area? Need businesses for SFR/residents
- Community garden at N. Lake
- Food 4 Less site, state of development
 - Cannot have recycle centers at these sites, does not fit into the concept of walkability
 - But need is there for poorer people

- Need diversity of businesses (SE corner of N. Lake and Washington)
- Signage (ex. Insurance business)

TABLE 7: Fair Oaks/Orange Grove & Lincoln

Session 1

I. Round 1

- Parking concerns
- Liquor store prohibition on Lincoln Avenue
- New school on 1200 block of Fair Oaks near E. Claremont
- Retention and rehabilitation of the YWCA
- Crosswalks and pedestrian walks near Kings Village and R&D (Fair Oaks)
- Pedestrian experience from Mountain to Washington on Fair Oaks
 - South side of Orange Grove between Lincoln and Fair Oaks
 - Vons/post office side – improve pedestrian experience
- Designation of R&D/industrial post office

II. Round 2

- Overdevelopment at intersection = traffic impacts
- Can the city take an active approach in implementation of the vision, work with property owners and developers
- Added development is not single family
- Post office
 - Minimize impact of trucks in the area
 - Recycle centers need to move, nuisance, bad aesthetics
- How do you encourage local development? Façade improvement?
- S. Raymond from Mountain to Washington – not walkable, bad aesthetics
- Post office at Fair Oaks and Villa

General Plan Community Forum

Group Notes

Tuesday, June 26, 2012

Pasadena Senior Center

TABLE 2: Policies

Session 1

I. Round 1

- Providing safe routes to public and private schools
- Support for an 8th Guiding Principle
 - Invest in PUSD kids – parents, community, teachers
 - A way to put priority or emphasis on how city can collaborate with the PUSD
 - City to collaborate with PUSD to share resources at 29 sites/school campuses
 - PUSD – strategic plans for community schools
 - City support for public schools
 - Put the school district on the map
- Public schools have cut funding for libraries – each school needs to raise funds to restore their library services
- City libraries can/should extend services to school libraries
- Support for contextual design
- Emphasize preservation
- Retain existing text of Guiding Principle #2
 - Existing text allows for a variety of new architecture
 - We don't want everything to be Craftsman or Spanish
- Preserve affordable housing
 - Too many high-end condos replacing affordable units
- Reconsider Policy 14.5 (1994) that says: No convalescent homes in the NW area (institutional uses)
 - Allow more flexibility

II. Round 2

- Support for 8th Guiding Principle for education – children & youth
 - After-school programs – intervention and prevention
 - Create a city of learning (cradle to grave) education
 - Guiding Principle #6 – needs to be broken out
- Bring other schools to the level of those that already excel

Session 2

- How do new building designs get built?
 - Concern over architectural excellence
- Form-based zoning
- Education
 - Support of 8th Guiding Principle on education – express the City’s interest in public education
 - Education is a fundamental issue in each community

TABLE 4: Central District & South Fair Oaks

Session 1

- Want more residents in Central District (CD) – believe actual demand is higher than forecasts
- Need residential uses to balance other uses – livable communities in C.D.
- Support mix of residential, job-generating, and entertainment uses in C.D. CD has been moving in this direction and need to continue.
- Concerned about preservation of view corridors
- Appropriate to have buildings taller than 6 stories in C.D.
- Zoning incentives to replace inappropriate uses
- Exclusive retail is too limiting along S. Lake
- Support form-based code
- Lake north of Colorado should not be downzoned

Session 2

- Downzoning of NW corner of Lake/Colorado not consistent with existing development
- Need great gathering spaces with great public art
- Caution against over supply of commercial, office, and retail uses versus the demand for these uses
- Need flexible future development to accommodate changing demand as nodes develop (land use flexibility)
- Quickly update specific plans to accommodate new development
- Support for development consistent with taller historic buildings especially in Playhouse District

TABLE 5: East Pasadena & East Colorado

Session 1

- Traffic calming should be put in place to protect bicyclists from faster traffic on Walnut and Colorado in E. Pasadena.
- Plans do not address parking – new parking structures should be built (related to Gold Line extension)
- Good idea to limit housing in Lamanda Park
- Area around Allen Station should include provision for retail
- If current zoning is office, will new mixed use zoning require residential?
- Who decides proximity of uses to promote alternate transportation?
- Change to R&D/flex space could negatively impact existing industrial uses/auto dealers
- What happens to existing uses in areas that are proposed to change land use designations?

Session 2

- Percentage of condos vs. apartments? Percentage of low income? There are more apartments in the city than condos. There should be a policy that addresses this issue.
- More people means more cars, even if the people are near transit
- Passageways between buildings on large blocks is a good idea
- Streetscape improvements will encourage walking
- Mixed use, new urbanist ideas are good
- Placing stores near where people live is a good idea
- Big box retail should be prohibited on E. Colorado
- Parking requirements should be reviewed in proposed neighborhood villages for potential reductions

TABLE 6: North Lake & Washington

Session 1

I. Round 1

- There are too many institutional uses on N. Lake – how do you ensure you get more neighborhood-serving uses?
- Are the inclusion of bioswales, placemaking elements, landscaping, etc. depicted in the renderings required by the city or for developers?
- Housing units concentrated at Lake Station and N. Lake/Washington
- Save view on Lake looking north from south of the freeway
- Covering freeway at Lake Station?
- Concern over buildings at Lake transitioning into SFR – setbacks at rear
- Parking – what are the zoning strategies for N. Lake? Under or above ground?
- Mobility connection between specific plan areas?

- ARTS bus route? Trolley?
- Need for a diversity of uses
- Looking for neighborhood-serving retail

II. Round 2

- Anything in General Plan to make “neighborhood village” work?
- Wish there was more continuity of “neighborhood village” feel at E. Washington
- Restaurants and sidewalk dining for E. Washington
- Historic preservation as economic development
- More trees on Washington
- Want more local restaurants that residents can walk to
- More flexibility about commercial parking in residential areas – it should be okay
- Are overall vehicle trips part of the General Plan?
- Encourage green bike lane on Colorado

Session 2

I. Round 1

- Do we think we will see increase in retail with the changes?
- How will we reduce car use in the area?
- Need a shuttle service connecting N. Lake/Washington to Gold Line station
- Lake is a commuter street, high number of cars traveling through to 210 Freeway
- Pasadena is a built-out city, need to build up
- Auto related stores are a problem in N. Lake

TABLE 7: Fair Oaks/Orange Grove & Lincoln

Session 1

- Blight
- Neighborhood-serving uses
- The Specific plan needs a little more steering (direction)
- Require more neighborhood commercial along Orange Grove
- Improve Mid Fair Oaks area
- Jackie Robinson Center good for redevelopment
- Scary feeling in the area
 - Crime
 - No amenities
 - Bad roads
- Provide links to the Rose Bowl
- R&D uses need to be actively pursued

- Expand transit capacity
- Parking issues for commercial component of mixed use
- Aging community – need services for this group

Session 2

- Walkability – hazard concerns
- Employ traffic calming measures
- Encourage family-oriented uses
 - Pocket park opportunities
 - Banks
 - Restaurants, services
 - Grocery
- Promote interesting architecture to redefine area
- Arterial aspect of Fair Oaks Avenue?
 - Empty promise, make priority
 - Aesthetics, livability
- Partnership with property owners to develop and implement
- Multimodal N. Fair Oaks
- Look at SFO for a good example to emulate