

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COUNCIL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2016
11:00 AM
MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING, B ROOM

Members Present:	Councilmember Ron Nirenberg, Chair, <i>District 8</i> Councilmember Alan E. Warrick II, <i>District 2</i> Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, <i>District 3</i>
Members Absent:	Councilmember Cris Medina, <i>District 7</i>
Staff Present:	Peter Zanoni, <i>Deputy City Manager</i> ; Susan Guinn, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Bridgett White, <i>Interim Director of Planning & Community Development</i> ; Rudy Nino, Jr., <i>Planning Administrator</i> ; Michael Rodriguez, <i>Executive Assistant</i> ; Alicia K. Beckham, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
Others Present:	Councilmember Shirley Gonzales, <i>District 5</i>

1. An in-depth briefing on the SA Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan. [Peter Zanoni, Deputy City Manager; Bridgett White, AICP, Interim Director Planning & Community Development]

Bridgett White stated that the goals of the Comprehensive Plan Effort were to update the 1997 Master Plan Policies; guide strategic decision making; guide infrastructure investments; and update the current Comprehensive Planning Process. She stated that staff worked with VIA Metropolitan Transit (VIA) on Vision 2040 to update their Long Range Comprehensive Transportation Plan. She stated that a variety of planning efforts were supported by Stakeholder Interviews, Plan Element Working Groups, Neighborhood Workshops, Public Meetings and other Outreach Efforts.

Chairman Nirenberg recommended that the Comprehensive Planning Group also be utilized for the 2017 Bond Committee.

Ms. White highlighted the City's high quality of life; low cost of living; cost of housing; economic growth; and short average commute time.

Councilmember Viagran stated that it was important for the City to have a strong connection to the School Districts noting that parents want to move into School Districts that offer good curriculum.

Mukul Maholtra stated that the major building blocks for the City's future are Regional Centers, Urban Centers, Corridors, and Neighborhoods. He stated that throughout community engagement, residents communicated that it was important to have existing neighborhoods revitalized and further enhanced. He added that 50% of jobs were located in Regional Centers. He noted that the Regional Centers were grouped in three categories:

1. Activity Centers
2. Logistic and Services Centers
3. Special Purpose Centers

Councilmember Warrick asked if there were cost comparisons related to creating new infrastructure around Loop 1604 and enhancing the existing infrastructure inside Loop 1604. Mr. Maholtra stated that infrastructure costs would be lower if the focus were on existing neighborhoods. Councilmember Warrick asked if they would prioritize which Regional Center Project received attention first. Ms. White responded that the need would be based on identifying each Center's Changes, Stability, and Development in that area. Mr. Maholtra noted that they would use the concept of place types to designate the appropriate and desired development patterns for the major building blocks.

Councilmember Viagran asked if there were any incentives for Developers to build in existing abandoned malls. Mr. Maholtra stated that there have been cities that have lowered permit fees and relaxed approval process for Developers to build in abandoned malls.

Mr. Maholtra stated that there were nine elements that have goals and policies that reflect and support the City's Vision and Key Guiding Principles. The nine elements are:

1. Growth and City Form
2. Transportation and Connectivity
3. Housing
4. Jobs and Economic Competitiveness
5. Community Health and Wellness
6. Public Facilities and Community Safety
7. Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability
8. Historic Preservation and Cultural Heritage
9. Military

Mr. Maholtra stated that the Element Goals described ideal conditions for the year 2040 that would result in a successful Comprehensive Plan. He stated that the policies were statements that identify the community's preferred actions and that they were proactively addressing challenges and opportunities for growth. He stated that the Growth and City Form Goals and Policies were developed in response to key areas in Strategic Infill, Strategic Expansion, Housing Stock, Natural Resources, and Education. He noted that the goals for Transportation and Connectivity were Multimodal Network, Land Use and Transportation, Congestion, Effectiveness, and Economic Competitiveness.

Councilmember Gonzales asked if the Comprehensive Plan would focus on increasing high capacity roads in Urban Areas. Mr. Maholtra responded that they were sensitive to the community's request and would not encourage through traffic that would disregard the surrounding community.

Councilmember Warrick asked how many Community Workshops there would be and which communities would be involved in them. Ms. White responded that there would be two to three workshops per year. She added that they would divide the City and identify those communities with similar assets and concerns. Councilmember Warrick asked when the Community Plans would be implemented. Ms. White stated that they would start implementing the Plans after they are adopted on August 4, 2016. Councilmember Warrick asked how the Regional Centers would be connected. Rudy Nino, Jr. stated that they would work on a Regional Center Plan; then connect the Community Plans and Corridors.

Mr. Maholtra stated that the key concerns in housing were income inequality and economic segregation; increased shares of all housing types; increased housing; creating attractive housing; and preserving and rehabilitating existing housing. He stated that the key concerns for jobs and economic competitiveness were better defining the economic geography to enhance the benefits of emerging industry clusters. He added that the City's economic environment should foster innovation and attract new businesses, investments, and industries. He stated that the central concept for Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability would be to meet present and future needs by balancing protection of the environment and ongoing prosperity of the local economy. He mentioned ways to continue to attract and retain military locations, assets, and missions.

Ms. White stated that the Implementation Strategy would provide guidance for indicators, targets, action items, and implementation tools for a five-year period. She mentioned that the Comprehensive Plan was a 25-year vision.

Councilmember Warrick suggested that staff have an implementation schedule when communicating the Plan to the community.

Councilmember Gonzales asked if there were opportunities for evaluation. Ms. White stated that the Plan would be reviewed every five years.

Chairman Nirenberg suggested that the 2017 Bond be joined with SA Tomorrow in terms of neighborhood revitalization and connectivity.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 1:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ron Nirenberg, Chairman

*Alicia K. Beckham,
Office of the City Clerk*