

GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP SUMMARY
February 4, 2019

Meeting Convened: 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall Auditorium

Meeting Adjourned: 6:46 p.m.

City Councilmembers present: Councilmembers Duncan McArthur, Phyllis Norris, Rick Taggart, and Duke Wortmann.

Staff present: City Manager Greg Caton, City Attorney John Shaver, Public Works Director Trent Prall, Community Development Director Tamra Allen, Principal Planner Dave Thornton, Community Services Manager Kathy Portner, Development Engineer Jarrod Whelan, Assistant to the City Manager Greg LeBlanc, and City Clerk Wanda Winkelmann.

Agenda Topic 1. Discussion Topics

a. Selection of members for the 2020 Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC)

Mr. Thornton introduced the topic. The City will be conducting the 2020 Comprehensive Plan update over the next 18 months. The Comprehensive Plan (last updated in 2010) is a long-range plan that looks at where and how the city will grow over the next 20 years. As a part of this effort, the consultant for the Comprehensive Plan, Houseal Lavigne, recommended appointing a committee of 12 to 15 members to serve as a sounding board, meet at key points during the project to discuss overall planning direction, review project deliverables, vet ideas and help promote community involvement.

Staff solicited letters of interest from the community to serve on the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC); 44 letters of interest were received. After Council reviews the letters of interest, formal appointment of the CPAC has been scheduled for the February 6th Council Meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding the applications and the following individuals were recommended appointees to the CPAC: Cindy Enos-Martinez, Diane Schwenke, Doug Sorter, Merritt Sixbey, Mike Foster, Robin Brown, Vara Kusal, Ivan Geer, Sister Karen Bland, Bethany Meyer, Gary Schroen, Ted Ciavonne, and Ben Herman. It was also recommended that a member of the Grand Junction Planning Commission (Keith Ehlers) and Mesa County Planning Commission be added to the Committee.

There will be additional opportunities for involvement in this process over the next 18 months.

b. Update on the Downtown Development Authority Plan of Development (POD)

Allison Bourquin with Community Builders and Brandon Stam, Director of the Downtown Development Authority introduced the topic.

The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Plan of Development (POD) adopted in 1981 is 38 years old and needs to be updated in order to guide development that is reflective of both the current market or the vision of the community for the greater downtown area. In this time of growth, the DDA should have a governing document that is reflective of the community's wants and needs in downtown and provides guidance about developing important partnerships for making a positive impact to the downtown. This project will develop an action-oriented plan for the DDA that identifies strategies and specific projects to achieve the community's priority goals for downtown Grand Junction.

Ms. Bourquin reviewed the results of an online survey and comments received at community events, comment boxes, and focus groups. Ms. Bourquin reviewed the retail potential of downtown and noted 82% of survey respondents go downtown at least once a week. Most respondents would like to see more shopping and dining downtown. Economic, housing, identity, connectivity, and comfort related themes emerged from the survey.

Discussion ensued about the experiential element of dining and shopping downtown, the possibility of DDA creating partnerships with others for pedestrian connections, and façade and ADA improvements in downtown.

The next steps include strategic goals workshops and learning events on February 26-27. A Phase 1 and 2 Summary Report will be forthcoming.

Agenda Topic 2. Next Workshop Topics

The February 18 workshop is canceled due to the Presidents Day holiday.

3. Other Business

There was none.

Adjournment

The Workshop adjourned at 6:46 p.m.