



GPAC Meeting #2 Notes – February 5, 2018

ATTENDEES

GPAC Members

- Mayor Pro Tem Jawane Hilton
- Councilmember Cedric L. Hicks, Sr.
- Berwyn Salazar
- David Gamboa
- John Low
- Ramona Pimental
- Vera Robles-Dewitt

City of Carson Staff

- Saied Naaseh, Planning Manager
- Richard Rojas, Senior Planner
- McKina Alexander, Associate Planner

Consulting Team

- Elizabeth Blanton, Associate, Dyett & Bhatia
- Meghan McNulty, Planner, Dyett & Bhatia

I. WELCOME

City staff and the consultant team welcomed GPAC members and kicked off the meeting.

2. PROCESS UPDATE

Dyett & Bhatia gave an overview of the planning process to date, including work on the Existing Conditions Report and community outreach. Dyett & Bhatia also recapped discussions from the last GPAC meeting, including the GPAC's discussion of planning priorities.

GPAC members suggested additional planning priorities:

- Carson's industrial base.
- Public safety/emergency response

3. COMMUNITY OUTREACH SUMMARY

- GPAC discussion:
 - The GPAC needs to be represented by different minority groups.
 - The online survey should be bilingual.
 - There should be an email about the General Plan update that goes out to the entire population of the city.
 - There may be a need for meetings that do not use technology.
 - More effort should be done to reach out to the business and industrial community.
 - The Chamber of Commerce may be a good way to reach the business community.
 - The Dominguez Employer Association would be good to reach out to.
 - Pop-up outreach ideas: 50th anniversary celebration golf outing.

4. KEY THEMES FROM EXISTING CONDITIONS REPORT

- GPAC Discussion:
 - Industrial
 - There are no refineries in the city, and there haven't been for some time. Some of these sites are actually used for storage. The land use map in the Existing Conditions Report should be updated accordingly.
 - How do you weave residential and industrial so there is not a conflict?
 - People need to understand that industrial is a main provider of jobs in the city. This may make them more supportive of it. Local hire policies can help with this.
 - Industrial spaces can convert to lofts and retail. Market forces would dictate this change, but right now this doesn't seem feasible in Carson.

- Santa Monica is a good case study.
- Economic Development
 - Need a grocery store in north Carson.
 - University faculty members mostly live in and around Carson.
 - Want to know how Carson's commuting data (people coming into and out of Carson for work) compares to other communities.
 - Carson has a significant unemployment rate. Need to look for opportunities to create jobs for people that actually live here.
 - Do the jobs that are in Carson provide livable wages? What are the people going out of the city earning compared to those coming in?
 - People who live and work in the city probably have reduced transportation costs.
 - Need more information about how Carson's economy links to the port.
 - People move to Carson for the community, not necessarily the jobs available in the city.
 - If the GPAC/City knows more about unemployment in the city, they can figure out how to leverage the business community and the University to offer better job training. CSUDH has worked with the business community to develop programs where students are able to get industry training and experience.
 - University may want to consider offering marijuana cultivation degrees.
 - There should be improved matching between people looking for jobs to the appropriate training to get them hired in city industries.
 - Advertising is important. People don't know what's going on. There should be improved advertising to let people know of job fairs and events going on in the city.
 - An electronic marquee could help.
 - The city doesn't feel like a destination.
- Circulation
 - The University is interested in adding additional bicycle lanes.
 - Need more bike racks at popular places, like grocery stores.
 - Biking can be dangerous with trucks. Protected bike lanes may be needed.
 - Measure M and the connection of the Green Line may increase ridership into Carson.
 - Concerned about many bus services travelling along major corridors, which is detracting ridership from the Carson Circuit.

- A shuttle service from Metro Stations to industrial bases (like Burbank) may be a good idea.
 - Mass transit could serve industrial areas.
 - People in the community use the Dial-A-Ride system.
 - Some roads in Carson were not engineered to sustain truck traffic. Only roads engineered for truck use should be used for trucks.
 - The existing traffic study about the moratorium did not link truck traffic to wear and tear on roads.
 - Trucks are cleaner than they have ever been.
 - Parks and walkability
 - Some GPAC members were surprised that Carson is not meeting its park service ratio goal of 4. The Existing Conditions Report showed a ratio of less than 2. (Since this GPAC meeting was held, the Existing Conditions Report was updated to include acreage from schools with joint use agreements in the parks total. The parks service ratio is now 3.3).
 - It is difficult to walk to restaurants and retail in north Carson. The University is the closest walkable area for someone in north Carson.
 - Making Carson as habitable as it is now from where it was 50 years ago was a major step. Because the city has grown so rapidly and has tried to add new housing to keep up with this growth, this means the city hasn't built as much park space.
 - The City has to carefully consider where to place new parks since there are so many contaminated sites.
 - The City should invest in parks.
 - Environment
 - Hazardous clean-up sites should be more clearly shown on the Opportunity Sites map. They should be marked in red.
 - Vapor barriers keep people safe from dangerous gases at parks.
 - Much of the water in Carson is not potable, but the aquifer may be safe from pollution.
 - Need to clarify source of pollution for the environmental justice map in the Existing Conditions Report. It is important to understand who is the cause of pollution. Not doing so may place undue blame on industrial developers.
 - An air apportionment study can be done to find the source of pollution.
 - There should be air quality monitoring stations in the city.
 - Schools

- Quality of schools is a concern.
- Need to make sure that planning efforts between the City and the LAUSD are coordinated.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments at this time.

6. NEXT STEPS AND ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned. The next meeting will occur on March 5th.