GENERAL PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting #3 | November 14, 2019 | 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

MEETING NOTES

OBJECTIVES

- Provide an overview of community engagement events to-date
- Highlight key existing conditions
- Present community ideas voiced through the survey, workshop, and pop-up workshops
- Brainstorm on guiding principles for the General Plan Update

ATTENDEES

GPAC Members

- **Present:** Alicia Rincon, Amy Commans, Andy Fox, Chaise Rasheed, Darren Bovard, Dustin Woomer, Fred Fukunaga, Jacqueline Emanuel, Jennifer Lobenhofer, Dr. Karen Gorback, Ken Lamont, Laura Behjan, Mic Farris, Michael Nigh, Nicholas Reale, Patrick DuRoss, Paul Shrater, Tara Carruth, Wyatt McCrea

- **Absent:** Dr. Chris Kimball, Emily Dale, Dena Jenson, Rorie Skei, Dr. Victor Hayek

City Staff

- Ingrid Hardy, Assistant City Manager; Tracy Noonan, City Attorney; Mark Towne, Community Development Director; Kelvin Parker, Deputy Community Developer Director; Michael Forbes, Deputy Community Development Director; Iain Holt, Senior Planner; Krystin Rice, Senior Planner; Tabitha McAtee, Assistant Planner

Consultant Team

- Matt Raimi and Melissa Stark, Raimi + Associates

MEETING MINUTES

Presentation

Matt Raimi provided a project update including flow of recent and upcoming work, phase one community engagement activities and participation and existing conditions overview. The high-level existing conditions overview highlighted land use, demographics, open space, housing, economic development, natural hazards, mobility, and community health. He then presented the results from
community engagement completed to date. This included a summary of the engagement activities and a composite summary of the strengths, challenges or threats, and opportunities for Thousand Oaks 2045.

**Small Group Discussion**

After the presentation, GPAC members split into small groups and brainstormed on community values and key strategies for the General Plan Update that will form the basis of the Guiding Principles. Groups worked for approximately 45-minutes then shared their conversation with the other members of the GPAC. GPAC members also individually wrote their ideas about community values and key strategies on worksheets and gave the worksheets to staff. The following are the ideas generated from the GPAC.

**Community Values**

- Community pride/spirit
- Inclusive & welcoming community
  - Embrace ethnic, racial, social, economic diversity
- Safe community
- High quality of life
- Family-friendly
- Suburban feel – a little bit of everything
- Open Space
  - Preserve undeveloped open space
  - Protect hillside/mountain views
- Desire to be more walkable
  - Less car-centric and less traffic congestion
- Accessible and diverse entertainment options
- Ease of getting around
- Housing
  - Affordable and workforce housing for diverse populations and needs
  - Equitable housing cost to labor salaries
  - Diversity of housing choices
  - Accessible housing
- Economic resiliency
  - Vibrant/thriving economy with jobs
- Sustainable and diverse population
- Quality education both public and private
- Affordable and accessible healthcare
- High quality public services (police, fire)
- History of Thousand Oaks
  - Part of the greater Conejo Valley ecosystem
• Environmental leadership
• Climate conscious

Key Strategies
• Improved public transportation
  o Better public transit
  o Transit Master Plan
• Greater housing diversity
  o Offer more housing types like mixed use development and multifamily
• More community gathering spaces
• Greater youth involvement
• Mixed use development (combat siloed areas)
• Preserve and protect open space and views
• Reuse/revitalize existing developed land
  o Repurpose land downtown
  o Create mixed use at shopping centers
  o Convert commercial to housing
• Address homelessness and mental illness
• Consider developing 2 downtowns/hubs
  o City Hall/CAP
  o Thousand Oaks and Westlake Boulevard
  o Walkable environment
  o Offer entertainment
• Plan for and consider energy, water, trash
• Climate change awareness and preparedness
  o Innovative ways to reduce carbon emissions
• Protect small town feel – close knit community
• Protect mobility and ease of getting around
• Attract more of the younger demographic
  • Attract families by creating community gathering places and entertainment
• Community integration with future development
• Continue to support families
• Protect against future wildfires
• Encourage neighborhood character/sense of community in new development
• Enable and encourage non-car transportation
• Develop path out of homelessness and into housing
• City resilience against climate change and natural disaster
**Public Comments**
Five members of the community formed a small group to create their list of values and guiding principles. The public’s composite summary is below.

**Community values**
- Community character
- Open space
- Concerned about changes to Civic Arts Plaza
- More homes needed
- Out of balance between youth culture and old school peace and quiet—need more youth culture
- Future needs of water, quality and availability

**Key strategies**
- Look to the original 1970 Master Plan – affordable housing
- Encourage conversion of commercial spaces to mixed use or housing
- Two town centers – Westlake and Thousand Oaks Boulevards and Moorpark Road and Thousand Oaks Boulevard
- Underground electric utilities for safety
- Consider transportation changes like electric and self-driving cars

**Additional Public Comment:**
One member of the public provided additional comment which included their desire for additional climate change measures to combat severe drought, stronger winds, wildfires, and oak tree preservation.