

## General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC)

### Meeting No. 2 Summary February 15, 2007

The second meeting of the GPAC began as a special meeting at 5:30 p.m. with a mixer in the Council Chambers. At 7:00 p.m. the regular meeting was called to order by City Planner Tom Bartlett (in Chairman Klein's absence) and he led the Pledge of Allegiance. The first order of business was to select a Vice Chairman to conduct the evening's meeting. After nominations and a written ballot, Andrew Cohen-Cutler was selected as Vice Chairman. Mr. Cohen-Cutler chaired the balance of the meeting.

GPAC Members in attendance included: Britt Aaronson, Dana Ashton, David Brown, Andrew Cohen-Cutler, Michael Friedman, Alan Horwitz, Michael Kaplan, Peter Kraut, Bob Lia, Robert Odello, Robert Pope, Rebecca Reyes, Mark Shear, Sandford Teitelman, Peter Valk, and Candice Weber. City staff in attendance included: Maureen Tamuri, Tom Bartlett, Geoff Starns, Glenn Michitsch, Isidro Figueroa, and Elizabeth Parker. Consultant team members in attendance included: Joe Power, Steve Svete, Hannah Muller and Matt Maddox with Rincon Consultants and Erik Justesen and Diane Bathgate with RRM Design Group.

Minutes of the January 18, 2007 GPAC meeting were inadvertently left out of the GPAC packets; so the GPAC was unable to take action on this item. The meeting minutes will be distributed for GPAC consideration at the next meeting. W A Powerpoint presentation was furnished outlining agenda item materials ([click here for presentation](#)).

#### MEETING PROTOCOL

Erik Justesen with RRM Design Group provided an overview of the anticipated typical GPAC meeting organization and also a meeting protocol to help ensure productive and inclusive meetings.

#### REVIEW OF GPAC ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

Erik Justesen facilitated GPAC member presentations of responses to the questions distributed as the first assignment. Questions included:

*Why do you choose to live in Calabasas?  
What attracted you to Calabasas? How long have you lived here?*

*What has changed the most since you moved here? The least?*

*Please identify three (3) issues that you feel are a top priority in the City that need to be addressed during the GP*

*update process and describe for each issue what you feel would be one or more successful solutions to the issue.*

Erik Justesen and Diane Bathgate scribed GPAC member responses on posters as members presented their answers. Members had many values and perspectives in common. Key topics of comments and issues included:

#### What attracted you?

- Open space
- Good schools
- Semi-rural character
- Civic involvement & pride
- Location-geographical & employment
- Good investment
- Hillsides
- Peacefulness
- Parks
- Weather & clean air
- Spaciousness
- Small town feel
- Trails
- Less crime
- Family oriented
- Affordable



#### What changed the most?

- Development
- Traffic - quantity & nature
- City management improved
- Everything
- More activity - residents are more involved

- Housing affordability
- Pace of community increased

#### What changed the least?

- Open space
- People
- Feeling of community
- Overall beauty
- Accessible government & participation
- Small town feel
- Well-managed growth
- Unchanged quality of development

#### Top Priority Issues:

- Future development
- Open space: passive/ active/ visual
- Crime
- Traffic
- Parking
- Landfill
- Affordable housing
- Policy based vs. performance based General Plan
- Maintain character
- Support independent business
- Senior housing
- Aging infrastructure
- Balanced new growth
  - Environmental
  - Economics
  - Residential
  - High-end retail
- Lost Hills Road interchange
- Westside center
- Wildland fire / flood
- Protect sensitive lands
- Affordable housing
- Climate change / environment
- Annexation areas/ new development
- Bike routes and safety
- Beautification
  - Art in public spaces
  - Gateways
  - Medians
- Master plan new development
  - Architectural design standards

- Traffic
  - Improve road system
  - Alternate routes/ protect neighborhoods
- Protect ridgelines
- Sports venues
  - Youth basketball
  - Organized sports facilities
- Maintain community character
- Promote health and safety
- Leader in environmental & social issues
- Support seniors and disabled
  - Housing
  - Recreation programs
- Include library service in city
  - Tech
  - Facilities
  - Video
  - Music
- Recreation facilities on east side
- Limit/ manage new growth
- Mansionization
  - Protect from overbuilding
- Health and safety disaster preparation
- Increase live/work opportunities
- Look for infill opportunities
- Open space as buffer/separator
- Accessibility to open space - "eyes" on open space for safety and better care

A packet of GPAC homework responses were distributed to the Committee. An additional packet with remaining responses will be provided after all are submitted.

#### ISSUE PAPERS

Joe Power with Rincon Consultants reviewed some preliminary issue paper topics based upon City Council comments, reviewed GPAC responses, consultations with City staff, prior community surveys and consultant team observations and review. Up to 10 issue papers are included in the project scope of work and are intended to explore special issues or technical areas that

warrant additional focus and analysis. Preliminary topics discussed to date include:

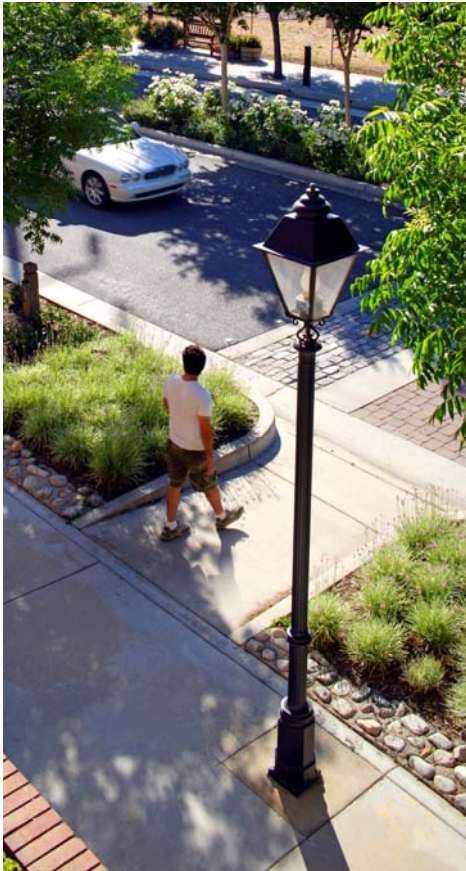
- Greenhouse gases/global warming
- Senior housing/mixed use development
- Creek/stream protection
- Traffic reduction/calming
- Growth management
- Annexation
- Economic diversification/job generation
- Commercial/retail opportunities on Agoura Road
- Accommodating affordable, safe housing for seniors
- Conversion of open spaces to recreational "preserves"
- Bike paths on main thoroughfares
- Art in public places
- "Sustainability" indicators & targets
- Flood zone changes
- Re-evaluation of scenic corridor definitions
- Re-evaluation of oak tree protection policies
- Fiscal impacts of annexation

Additional topics suggested by the Committee included:

- Flood setbacks
- Lost Hills Road bridge on Hwy 101
- Sound walls
- Oak trees (consider private vs. public distinction)
- Greenhouse gases (individual/city)
- Beautification/quality architecture and design

A suggestion also was made to group topics under general categories. Based up on the provided input, Rincon will distribute a list of 10 recommended issue

paper topics for GPAC information and review prior to the next meeting.



#### COMMUNITY OUTREACH & SURVEY

Erik Justesen summarized the community outreach efforts planned for the first phase of the General Plan work effort. These include:

- Project Website
- GPAC Meetings
- Meeting Agendas and Summaries
- Meeting Materials
- Community Survey
- 3 Public Workshops (Phase 1)

Joe Power reviewed results from the most recent community surveys conducted in 2003 and 2005 and also introduced the proposed community survey for the current General Plan work effort. The draft survey was distributed ahead of the

meeting to GPAC members for review. It is intended that the survey be made available online for citizen use for the purpose of engaging citizens at large and collecting information to shape the General Plan Update.

GPAC comments on the draft community survey included:

- Be careful how data is collected and used, especially if not collected in a statistically reliable way.
- Need methods to “drive” people to the website survey - advertising may be needed such as in City’s utility mailings
- Look at a method to limit to one response per person - work with City’s IT department
- Provide more specific response options for location - not just east or west of the grade
- Provide an introduction that describes the purpose of the survey and estimated time needed to complete

Suggestions were provided for revisions to specific questions. Additional discussion addressed the length of the survey and whether a two-tiered approach might be appropriate.

### ***Best Features of Calabasas?***

- ***Lack of crime (17%)***
- ***Quality of education (17%)***
- ***Small town atmosphere (9%)***
- ***Open space (9%)***
- ***Part of community (6%)***

***Source: 2005 Telephone Community Survey***

GPAC members were encouraged to forward any additional comments within the next few days. A revised community survey will be distributed prior to public availability.

STAKEHOLDERS

Erik Justesen reviewed a preliminary list of project stakeholders. Two days of interviews with stakeholders, both individuals and groups, are planned. GPAC comments and suggestions included:

- Las Virgenes Water District
- Caltrans
- Los Angeles County Public Works
- Homeowner Associations
- Small business owners
- City staff to commissions

Written suggestions were submitted by Dave Brown. Tom Bartlett mentioned that service providers and utilities such as Sheriff and Fire Department representatives and the Las Virgenes Water District will be part of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for the General Plan Update.

GPAC ASSIGNMENT & NEXT MEETING

Erik Justesen with RRM Design Group explained the second GPAC assignment which includes up to 12 photographic images to be submitted by March 2. Cameras were distributed to the GPAC members for their use. The next GPAC meeting will be held March 15, 2007 at 6:00 pm, at the Agoura/Calabasas Community Center. Exercises are planned to further explore and refine identified issues and ideas for the General Plan Update.

Opportunity for public comments was provided (no persons came forward). The meeting was adjourned to March 15, 2007.

Submitted by:

-----  
Andrew Cohen-Cutler, Vice Chairman