

From: Patricia Bluman
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2007
To: General Plan Advisory Committee
CC: Fred Buss; Robert Stanley
Subject: GPAC - Information from Meetings

Hello GPAC members,

As you know, we held a community workshop in May for the General Plan update, and also had a session with a government class of high school seniors at La Cañada High School. We compiled the input from both meetings, which is attached for your information. Please note that there are a total of 6 documents – three for each session.

I'd also like to acknowledge and respond to a question I received from a GPAC member in response to the draft vision statement I forwarded to the GPAC. We agreed that a response to any question from one GPAC member would go to all members, so everyone would have the benefit of the same information.

She wrote:

"I received the draft of the vision statement and have a question about the affordable housing opportunities for senior citizens and young families. If we have that in the vision, are we locked in to doing it? And are we adding that in order to receive federal funds? Other than those questions, it looks good to me."

It's a great question, and definitely one to think about before the next GPAC meeting, because we'll be reviewing and finalizing the draft vision statement the GPAC will be recommending to the City Council. My response is that a vision statement's purpose is to provide direction and guidance for the goals, policies, and implementing actions of the General Plan. So, while the city isn't "locked into" carrying out the items in a vision statement, it is reasonable to expect that a jurisdiction would make decisions that reflect the intent of the vision. If someone who was interested in developing affordable housing for seniors or young families in La Canada Flintridge read the vision statement as it is written, wouldn't you expect that person to think the city wanted that type of housing?

This question isn't limited to the issue of affordable housing or to the vision statement. It will be important for the GPAC to be sure that the any of the statements in the vision and the goals and policies you review and recommend also reflect the community's intent, especially since the California Supreme Court called the General Plan the "constitution for future development." (The "General Plan 101" document we provided at the first GPAC meeting may provide some additional guidance regarding this question.)

As to the question about adding the statement about affordable housing to receive federal funds, I expect that a good portion of a future GPAC meeting will be taken up with information and discussion regarding housing and the question of "affordable housing," as it is a key issue in the Housing Element and an important one in the Land Use Element. We will address this question at that time.

Thank you again for your participation on this project. Please let me know if you have any questions.

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