

CITY OF MESA

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD
STUDY SESSION

Held in the City of Mesa Council Chamber (Lower Level)
September 18, 2012 at 7:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Randy Carter, Chair
Beth Coons, Vice Chair
Vince DiBella
Lisa Hudson
Suzanne Johnson
Brad Arnett
Michael Clement

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

John Wesley
Tom Ellsworth
Angelica Guevara
Debbie Archuleta
Jeff McVay
Margaret Robertson

Ralph Pew
Others

Chairperson Carter declared a quorum present and the meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m.

1. Review items on the agenda for the September 19, 2012 regular Planning & Zoning hearing.

The items on the September 19, 2012, agenda were discussed. No formal action was taken.

2. Planning Director's Updates:

Mr. Wesley stated there had not been any issues with cases proceeding through City Council.

3. Other Business:

- a. Discuss and provide input on the update to the City's General Plan, Land Use Plan Element.

Planning Director John Wesley explained that staff had used information from Council, the sub-committee, and input from citizens through iMesa to create the Underlying Goals for the development of the General Plan update. Regarding land use there were a number of concerns that the current plan was too specific, so staff was exploring the use of Character Areas instead.

Staffmember Tom Ellsworth stated there were 5 types of overall character: open space, center, corridor, district, and neighborhood. For development form there 3: rural, suburban, and urban. He stated staff would be trying to get citizen input from as many

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places as possible. Staff was planning to attend meetings and events that were already happening, such as Celebrate Mesa, Second Fridays, etc. He stated there would also be meetings specifically for the General Plan update. Mr. Ellsworth explained the web site, ThisisMyMesa.org and stated staff was working on a smart phone app.

Chair Carter stated he did not like the phrases “healthy living environments” or “improve sustainability by reducing the need for auto travel”.

Boardmember DiBella wanted them defined. He stated the concepts are fine, the problem has been with implementation.

Boardmember Coons stated Mesa does not have the transportation alternatives to allow people to not need cars.

Chair Carter stated it was important to remember the City needs retail sales tax. He did not want the emphasis to be on jobs.

Boardmember Coons wanted to ensure the City continue to protect the airport, and include the airport and the areas around it in the General Plan.

Chair Carter stated staff needs to be able to govern easily anything in the goals. The problem is how they are interpreted by plan reviewers.

4. Minutes – submit any corrections, additions, deletions.

None.

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Wesley, Secretary
Planning Director

NOTE: Audiotapes of the Planning & Zoning Study Sessions are available in the Planning Division Office for review.