

GENERAL PLAN ADVSORY COMMITTEE

November 28, 2022

The General Plan Advisory Committee of the City of Mesa met in the lower-level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on November 28th, 2022, at 6:03 p.m.

COMMITTEE PRESENT

Ron Williams, Chair
Scott Thomas, Vice-Chair
Sarah Frechette
Megan Neal
Jessica Sarkissian
Jocelyn Skogebo

COMMITTEE ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Mary Kopaskie-Brown
Jeff Robbins
Omar Soto
Sergio Solis
Lauren Lowe
Terri Hogan
Megan Moore
McKayla Dunfey
Bruce Meighen
Kelly Naumann

1. Call meeting to order

Jeff Robbins called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. Welcome by Mesa City staff and introductions.

Jeff Robbins welcomed everyone to the Committee and said that the General Plan is one of the most important documents used by the City of Mesa. He thanked the members of the committee for volunteering to serve. He said that their job is to recommend a plan draft to the Mesa City Council which will be voted on by Council and then the general public. Each person in the room introduced themselves followed by consultants from Logan Simpson Design, several of whom joined the meeting virtually.

3. Discussion and action on appointing Chair and Vice-Chair.

Jeff Robbins explained to the Committee that they would now nominate and vote on the Committee chair and vice chair. The chair position would have additional responsibilities for coordinating the agendas with City staff and handling any other issues. The Committee members discussed briefly and Ron Williams volunteered as chair. It was moved by Committee member Sarkissian, seconded

by Committee member Thomas that Committee member Ron Williams be named as Chair of the General Plan Advisory Committee.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Williams, Thomas, Frechette, Neal, Sarkissian, Skogebo
NAYS – None

Carried unanimous

The Committee briefly discussed the vice-chair position. After hearing no nominations, Committee member Thomas volunteered as vice-chair. It was moved by Chairperson Williams, seconded by Committee member Sarkissian that Committee member Thomas be named as vice-chair of the General Plan Advisory Committee.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Williams, Thomas, Frechette, Neal, Sarkissian, Skogebo
NAYS – None

Carried unanimous

4. Hear a presentation and discuss Arizona Open Meeting Laws and Conflict of Interest Laws.

Assistant City Attorney Lauren Lowe introduced herself and explained that she would present a very high-level overview of open meeting law. Public bodies must conduct their meetings openly and the General Plan Advisory Committee is a public body. Discussion can occur in executive session in limited circumstances and no votes can occur in executive session. There are many forms of meetings including social events where business is discussed between board members or serial meetings where board members discuss business in a chain and effectively a discussion occurred. Lauren said that communication on any electronic device that discusses business and is sent to a quorum could violate open meeting law. Any message, such as emails, should be sent to Jeff Robbins, the General Plan project manager, and not to the entire Committee. Lauren explained that social media is also a place where meetings can occur. Committee member Neal asked if multiple committee members responding to a post about a public event could be considered a violation. Lauren responded that it would likely not be a violation because it is simply members advertising or promoting a meeting and not discussing business. Public meetings must be noticed 24 hours in advance and have quorum. Any votes taken without these conditions are non-binding. The committee can plan place reasonable limitations, such as time limitations, on members of the public. The public does not have a right to speak. Members cannot speak on topics that are not agendized and there are penalties for violating the law. Lauren explained what constitutes a substantial interest that must be declared. Chairperson Williams asked what constitutes a family member. Lauren read the statute which lists all of the family relations that are considered to be family. Lauren asked if there were any questions, there were none, and she said any members of the committee could contact her or Jeff Robbins if they had any questions.

5. Hear and discuss a presentation on the General Plan process and General Plan Advisory Committee duties.

Terri Hogan introduced herself and Kelly Naumann as consultants hired by the City of Mesa to manage the General Plan update. Terri reintroduced the Mesa team and consultant team including Kimley Horn and Zions Public Finance and the principal of Logan Simpson, Bruce Meighen. Bruce discussed a focus on innovation for this plan, making the plan shorter and more graphic, and the importance of inclusivity in the General Plan. Kelly Naumann invited the committee to use Menti.com to complete three exercises. Committee members typed in what they love most about Mesa, what needs to be improved and one word or phrase to describe Mesa. There was no discussion from the committee.

Terri explained that the General Plan is a vision for the future and that it is a component in a series of planning tools and processes. The General Plan is required every 10 years by state law and requires public involvement and approval by the City Council and the public. There are four phases, kickoff, visioning, plan development, and adoption of plans. Terri explained that the City needs to have the General Plan approved by the Mesa City Council by June 16, 2014. Jeff Robbins said that while it is important to have Council approval by this date, we have a very hard deadline of July 8th because there is a 120 day waiting period before the November 2024 election. Terri explained the required sections of the General Plan. Committee member Frechette asked how we could include sections beyond those that are required, such as education. Terri said that additional sections will be added and that the Committee can make recommendations. Committee Member Sarkissian asked if the Committee is required to review everything, meaning each word of the plan and all data. Terri answered that there is a Technical Advisory Committee that will focus on drafting the language of the plan. General Plan Advisory Committee members can be as involved as they wish, but generally we will be looking to the Committee for high-level concepts and feedback based on the public input received. Vice Chair Thomas asked if there will be a canvassing effort after the approval. Jeff Robbins said no, the City cannot use public funding to influence an election, but other private organizations may do so if they wish. Planning Director Mary Kopaskie-Brown said that if we do the plan well the plan should be approved on its own without any extra assistance. Committee member Sarkissian reminded everyone that 2024 is a general election year and that some members of the public will vote no on the plan simply to protest government and we will need to promote the plan as much as possible before the Mesa City Council vote.

Terri explained that all General Plans have a future land use map and a policy implementation section. She explained the General Plan schedule. Committee member Sarkissian asked if the General Plan Advisory Committee's work would be done in June 2024. Terri explained that the committee should be done in Task 3.0 which is March 2024 and that we need to have the plan adopted by the Mesa City Council in May, 2024. Terri explained the role of the GPAC and Jeff Robbins said that being an advocate for the plan in the community was one of the most important roles. Terri said that there are 8 additional committee meetings planned through 2024 and showed a slide showing tentative meeting dates and times. Terri asked the committee if Monday evenings is convenient for future meetings. The committee discussed and determined that Monday afternoons closer to 4:00 pm would be better. Vice Chair Thomas has a conflict every three months and can move his schedule if the committee schedules in advance. Meetings will be held in the future on Mondays at 4:30 pm instead of 6:00 pm.

Terri said that state law requires that the City Council adopt a public participation plan. The committee must review before the plan is taken to council. Staff intends to take the plan to Council in January. Terri explained that the City has completed the logo for the outreach and that there will be an umbrella website for all of the plans. Chair Williams asked the names of the other plans that we the General Plan will coordinate with. Jeff Robbins said that the City is

coordinating concurrent planning processes by Water, Transit, Transportation, and Housing and that there would be a joint website for all of the plans and that public events would be as coordinated as reasonably possible. Committee member Neal asked if our process is synchronized with the other plans. Jeff Robbins said that we are attempting to coordinate the public engagement as much as possible, but the other three plans will complete their work by late 2023.

Jeff showed the Committee the General Plan logos. There are two logos, one logo for the public outreach and another for the General Plan document. The outreach logo will phase out after the public outreach campaign is complete. Terri explained some next steps for the committee and asked if there were any questions. There were none.

6. Discuss schedules and planning of future meetings.

Chair Williams determined that scheduling had been resolved during the previous agenda item and moved to the next agenda item.

7. Items from citizens present.

There were no items from citizens present.

8. Adjournment.

Without objection, General Plan Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the General Plan Advisory Committee meeting of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 28th day of November 2022. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.



JEFF ROBBINS, SENIOR ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT MANAGER