



Memorandum

To: Planning Commission
From: Thomas Dansie, Planner
Date: February 26, 2021
Re: General Plan Update - March 3 Work Meeting

The Planning Commission is working on updates to the General Plan. Currently individual Commissioners are working on developing goals, objectives, and implementation strategies for each of the Plan's eight elements. Commissioners have been meeting with subject matter experts and gathering information to help create these goals, objectives and strategies.

Commissioner assignments for the eight General Plan elements are as follows:

Land Use and Town Appearance: Jack
Transportation: Dawn
Housing: Tom
Economic Development: Barbara
Municipal and Public Services: Susan
Parks, Recreation, and the Arts: Dawn
Public Health: Barbara
Natural and Cultural Resources: Ric

Each Commissioner has been developing content for their assigned elements. Staff is reviewing this content and offering suggestions. Staff suggests the Commission devote the majority of the upcoming work meeting to reviewing the content developed thus far for each element. As a reminder, Commissioner content and staff suggestions are available on the shared Google drive. Please log in to enter content for your assigned element, and also to review the content of other Commissioners on other elements. This will help the discussion in the meeting be more efficient.

Staff has been making some suggestions and comments on the content developed thus far, and will continue to do so prior to the meeting. So please check the updates on the Drive often to get the latest updates.

As a reminder, at this point the Commission should be focused on developing goals, objectives, and implementation strategies to help the Town achieve the vision established in the vision document. You do not need to worry about fine tuning the content, wordsmithing, or copy editing at this point. Developing the content that supports the vision is the primary objective at this point.

Also remember to keep your content simple, general, and focused on the vision. Detailed action plans and specific ordinance language are not necessary (or helpful) in a general plan. The intent is to provide

general direction with enough specificity and detail to allow the Town to take future action. Specific action plans and implementation will come after the general plan is adopted.

EXAMPLE

Vision: *Preserve Springdale's visual character, rural feel, and natural resources.*

Goal: *Residents and visitors are able to enjoy the dark night sky in years to come.*

Objective: *Ensure new development does not contribute to light pollution or degradation of the dark night sky.*

Implementation Strategy: *The Town Code Enforcement Officer will enforce outdoor lighting ordinance on all new development and the Planning Commission will make revisions to the ordinance as necessary to improve its effectiveness.*

Notice in the example above there is enough direction to allow the Town to take action, but the direction is not so specific to limit the Town's future action. For example, the implementation strategy above does not say, "Revise the outdoor lighting ordinance by requiring all lights to be turned off at 11pm." That kind of specificity is important in ordinance language, but would be too constraining in a General Plan.

Staff recommends the Commission spend the March work meeting getting the goals, objectives, and strategies of each element in a draft finished form.