

KINGS COUNTY GENERAL PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

CITY MEMBERS

Dennis Tristao - Chair
Vacant
Judy Horn – Alternate

PUBLIC MEMBERS

Mark Pohle
Bob Lewis
Glen Estes
Gary Curtis – Alternate

COUNTY MEMBERS

Joe Neves
Jim Gregory

DISTRICT MEMBERS

Ronnie Silva
James Lohry
Louie Rodrigues – Alternate

COMMERCIAL MEMBERS

Jim Olivas
Jeff Stivers
John Bolze - Alternate

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Alicia Jacobo
Doyle Davis
Alexis Beiter - Alternate

AGRICULTURAL MEMBERS

Michael Miya
Craig Pederson – Vice Chair
Charles Meyer - Alternate
Roger McVay – Alternate

KINGS COUNTY

PLANNING AGENCY STAFF: Greg Gatzka (559) 582-3211 ext. 2682, Jerry James (559) 582-3211 ext. 2673

CALL TO ORDER: The first meeting of the Kings County General Plan Advisory Committee (KCGPAC) was called to order by Greg Gatzka, Deputy Planning Director, at 6:30 p.m., on August 16, 2007. The KCGPAC meeting was held in the Administration Multi-Purpose Room of the Kings County Government Center, located at 1400 W. Lacey Blvd., in Hanford, California. Roll call of members was conducted by Mr. Gatzka, and a quorum of appointed committee members were in attendance.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Joe Neves, Jim Gregory, Dennis Tristao, Judy Horn, Alicia Jacobo, Ronnie Silva, James Lohry, Michael Miya, Craig Pederson, Jim Olivas, John Bolze, Mark Pohle, Bob Lewis, Glen Estes

COMMITTEE ALTERNATES PRESENT: Louie Rodrigues, Charles Meyer, Roger McVay, Gary Curtis

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Doyle Davis, Jeff Stivers

COMMITTEE ALTERNATES ABSENT: Alexis Beiter

STAFF PRESENT: Greg Gatzka, Jerry James

VISITORS PRESENT: None

APPOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Mr. Gatzka informed the Committee that Dave Whistler has withdrawn his appointment due to personal reasons and that there is a vacancy. Mr. Gatzka informed the Committee that they may appoint an Alternate to serve as the Member to fill the vacancy. He indicated that Mr. Bolze has expressed interest in serving as a member. The item will be brought back before the Committee at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Mr. Gatzka informed the Committee that a Chairperson and Vice Chair are needed for the Committee and opened the item for discussion. He requested that the Chairperson appointment be addressed first. Mr. Olivas nominated Dennis Tristao for Chairperson. Ms. Horn seconded the nomination. Seeing no additional nominations, Mr. Gatzka asked the Committee for a vote to appoint Mr. Tristao as Chairperson. Approval of Mr. Tristao as Chairperson carried unanimously. Mr. Gatzka then asked for

nominations for Vice Chair. Mr. Neves nominated Craig Pederson. Mr. Gregory seconded the nomination. Seeing no additional nominations, Mr. Gatzka asked the Committee for a vote to appoint Mr. Pederson as Vice Chair.

UNSCHEDULED APPEARANCES: None

CORRESPONDENCE: None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Establishing Future Meeting Dates and Times

Chairperson Tristao called for suggestions on when to meet, and how long the meetings should last. The recommendation was made to continue meeting on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. and to limit the meeting time to a maximum of two hours.

The recommendation was unanimously approved. Mr. Tristao requested that staff put together a calendar of future meeting dates and distribute it to the Committee. He also asked that the dates be confirmed as not conflicting with any holidays.

B. Overview of General Plan Update and Processes

Mr. Gatzka presented an overview of the General Plan Process and tentative timelines. He provided information on how the update is organized and provided the Committee with a flowchart showing the major components of the General Plan. The Committee was informed that the entire process (GP Update and EIR circulation) would take 12 to 16 months to get through the CEQA process and to the Board for consideration and approval.

C. Overview of Armona and Kettleman City Draft Community Plans

Mr. Gatzka provided draft copies of the Armona and Kettleman Community Plans to the Committee. He informed the Committee that these plans were prepared by Cal Poly City & Regional Planning groups and that County planning staff is currently reviewing the documents in more detail. He provided a brief overview of the community processes involved to develop the plans and the plan highlights. It was explained that the Kettleman City Community Plan is much closer to being a completed document than the Armona Plan. The Committee decided to review and provide comments to Staff at the next Advisory meeting.

After hearing the overview of the Armona Draft Community Plan, committee members asked various questions to gain a better understanding of planning related issues such as incorporation, redevelopment, infrastructure plans, traffic studies, sphere of influence, and other topics. County staff addressed their inquiries and used GIS displays on the projector screen to present visuals.

After the Kettleman City Draft Community Plan overview, committee members discussed issues related to that community such as the need for pedestrian safety along Highway 41, alternative traffic calming concepts, truck parking, and infrastructure needs.

Mr. Gatzka indicated that the two remaining Community Plans for Stratford and Home Garden would have drafts completed in September. He also indicated that a developer was interested in developing a larger area of Stratford, and that a specific plan will likely be submitted. He clarified that this development plan is separate from this update and would require its own EIR.

D. Interest in Sub-Committees

Chairperson Tristao inquired with County staff as to the need for sub-committees. Mr. Gatzka advised the committee that this item was presented to the Committee simply as an item of discussion to determine if there was interest by committee members.

The Committee decide not to appoint any sub-committees until further along in the process. There was discussion on whether various committee members should review only sections of the General Plan that pertains to “their” communities or review as a whole. It was suggested that the Committee would be better served if they reviewed the entire document and shared their comments and edits with the entire Committee.

MISCELLANEOUS

A. Member Comments –

Chairman Tristao asked staff to give an idea of the timeframes that each community plan and element may be ready for committee review. Mr. Gatzka indicated that Kettleman City Community Plan could be ready for the next meeting and Armona for the following meeting. The two remaining community plans would likely follow at the following meetings. He also indicated that the Safety Element may be ready within the timeframe as well. The committee was in favor of moving forward with this suggested timeline of review activities and staff was requested to prepare a tentative timeline of draft general plan components that will be ready for the committee’s review.

ADJOURNMENT – With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

A. Next scheduled regular meeting is September 20, 2007, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory R. Gatzka, Deputy Planning Director