

July 8, 2021

Dear GPAC Members,

This memo is intended to help you prepare for the July 15th GPAC meeting.

Logistics

The next meeting of the Petaluma General Plan Advisory Committee will be held on July 15th at 6:30 pm. The meeting will be held virtually on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/91211018537>

Please join approximately 10-15 minutes early so that we can address any technical issues or process questions that you may have. Please also be aware that, though we're planning to conclude the meeting by 9:00 pm, we have a very full agenda, and would request the committee's consideration of additional time if necessary for this specific meeting.

Background

As you know, the June GPAC meeting was cancelled at the last minute due to PG&E notifications about potential power outages due to the extreme heat event. This has created some schedule challenges, and we are doing our best to make up the time lost. The following is an update on GPAC-related activities that have occurred since the May meeting.

- **Group Agreements.** The May 20th GPAC meeting included brainstorming on GPAC group agreements. These were sent to GPAC members for review and comment. We did not receive any comments or suggested modifications to the group agreements from GPAC members. The group agreements are again attached and will serve as a guide for how we work together moving forward.
 - **Topics of Interest.** In May, the GPAC also brainstormed topics of interest for the GPAC to focus on as we move forward with the planning process. This work continued during one-on-one listening sessions that took place in June. The consultant team will be providing a summary of the feedback received on topics of interest at the July GPAC meeting.
 - **May Meeting Notes.** The meeting notes from the May GPAC meeting are attached to this letter. Two minor revisions were made based on GPAC member feedback – one to add an additional social and racial justice General Plan subtopic, and another to correct a typographical error.
 - **Sub-Area Discussion.** The June GPAC agenda had been structured around the topic of sub-areas to guide the discussion of distinct neighborhoods and unique areas within the city and their distinct characteristics, issues, and opportunities. Although the June meeting was cancelled, the team invited GPAC input to continue that exploration and received written comments from nine GPAC members. In addition, the planning team met with a working group of six additional GPAC members on June 30th and received recommendations on the sub-areas from the current General Plan. Overall, members of the working group agreed that some of the existing sub-area boundaries were valid but also felt that some of the sub areas in the existing General Plan needed to be reconsidered. The General Plan Team will combine GPAC input with its own analysis
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and input from City staff to create a draft sub-area map to be used for our preliminary existing conditions work. These boundaries will likely be modified during future stages in the planning process.

July Meeting Agenda Items and Homework

The agenda for the July meeting is designed to both build on past work and support ongoing and upcoming priorities. The following are the main components of the July 15th GPAC meeting agenda.

- **Issues and Opportunities:** In June, the consultant team held individual listening sessions with City Council and GPAC members. During the July GPAC meeting, we will briefly review a summary of issues and opportunities identified as part of the listening sessions. This information from the listening sessions will be combined with community engagement performed as part of the General Plan effort and will be used as the basis for the vision and guiding principles, which are foundational directional components of the General Plan.
- **Environmental Justice and Equity:** The July meeting will be focused on a core element of the General Plan Update – environmental justice. The consultant team will present background information and lead a discussion focused on community health and environmental justice-related issues and opportunities in Petaluma.
- **Prior to the meeting, please review the attached background presentation on environmental justice. This is critical and dense information that will be helpful to guide the discussion on July 15th.** The presentation includes a significant amount of information on Senate Bill 1000 (the State’s requirement to include an Environmental Justice Element in the General Plan), socioeconomic and demographics data, health outcomes, environmental pollution, and physical environment conditions in Petaluma. The presentation also walks through the methodology used by the consultant team to identify “disadvantaged communities,” which is the first step necessary to prepare a Petaluma specific Environmental Justice Element.
In addition, if you have not already done so, please review the environmental justice background materials provided after the last meeting:
 - Governor’s Office of Planning and Research 2020 Update of Environmental Justice Element guidance: https://opr.ca.gov/docs/20200706-GPG_Chapter_4_EJ.pdf
 - Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) - Equitable Development as a Tool to Advance Racial Equity: <https://www.racialequityalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/GARE-Equitable-Development.pdf>
 - California Environmental Justice Alliance, SB 1000 Implementation Toolkit :<https://caleja.org/2017/09/sb-1000-toolkit-release/>

The primary questions for GPAC discussion at the meeting are:

- 1) What are Petaluma’s health and environmental justice strengths?
- 2) What are Petaluma’s health and environmental justice weaknesses?
- 3) What geographic areas may have unique or compounded health risks?

We would also like input on the methodology used to identify “disadvantaged communities.”

- **Upcoming Meetings and Tasks.** We will spend a few minutes at the end of the meeting giving the GPAC a preview of near-term project activity and topics for future GPAC meetings. We will conclude the meeting with some homework to prepare for the August GPAC meeting.

Other Project Updates

The work on the General Plan Update continues to move along several concurrent tracks and therefore we want to keep you apprised of other project activities. Additional attached work products include:

- Project Fact Sheet
- Socioeconomic Profile of Petaluma

If you have any questions about the meeting or the project, please contact Christina Paul (cpaul@cityofpetaluma.org). Thank you and we look forward to seeing you on July 15th at 6:30pm.

- The General Plan Team