



Task Force Meeting Synopsis April 28, 2008

Task Force Members Present*:

Co-Chair Shirley Lewis, Co-Chair Sam Liccardo, Vice Chair David Pandori, Jackie Adams, Teresa Alvarado, Shiloh Ballard, Michele Beasley, Frank Chavez, Judy Chirco, Gary Chronert, Harvey Darnell, Dave Fadness, Enrique Fernandez, Leslee Hamilton, Sam Ho, Nancy Ianni, Lisa Jensen, Frank Jesse, Matt Kamkar, Phaedra Ellis-Lamkins, Charles Lauer, Karl Lee, Linda LeZotte, Pierluigi Oliverio, Jenniffer Rodriguez, Dick Santos, Patricia Sausedo, Erik Schoennauer, Judy Stabile, Neil Struthers, Alofa Talivaa, Michael Van Every, and Jim Zito

Task Force Members Absent:

Yolanda Cruz, Pastor Oscar Dace, Pat Dando, Harvey Darnell, and Dan Hoang

City Staff and Other Public Agencies Present*:

Ru Weerakoon (Mayor's office), Jessica Garcia-Kohl (Mayor's office), Roma Dawson (Councilmember Liccardo's office), Peter Hamilton (Councilmember Chirco's office), Mansour Nasser (ESD), Melody Tovar (ESD), Kerrie Ramanow (ESD), Bob Wilson (ESD), Dionne Early (ESD), Matt Krupp (ESD), Junko Vroman (ESD), Maria Angeles (Public Works), Laurel Prevetti (PBCE), Michael Brilliot (PBCE), Stefanie Hom (PBCE), and Justina Change (PBCE).

*As verified by registering attendance on Sign-In Sheets.

1. Welcome and Review of Agenda

The meeting was convened the meeting at approximately 6:30 p.m.

2. Review and Approval of Synopsis of the March 24, 2008 Meeting

The following correction was requested:

- On page 3, the last sentence of paragraph two should be revised to read: "Economic development incentives are often needed."

The synopsis, as revised, was approved, with Task Force member Phaedra Ellis-Lamkins abstaining.

3. Presentation and discussion of Water Sustainability

a. Water Quality – Melody Tovar, Deputy Director with the City of San Jose Department of Environmental Services

The Task Force provided the following comments:

- Miles of riparian corridor should be a sustainability indicator.
- Suggested having separate riparian corridor policies for the hillsides (lower density areas) and higher density areas.
- Need to protect watershed areas.
- The riparian corridor language in the existing General Plan should be strengthened.
- San Jose is part of a regional economy that includes the Central Valley. When there is not enough housing here, then development sprawls into the Central Valley. Not providing adequate housing in San Jose can affect water supply. People who drive from the Central Valley contribute to contamination.

b. Water Supply – Mansour Nasser, Deputy Director with the City of San Jose Department of Environmental Services

The Task Force provided the following comments:

- Water has a fiscal impact. Water use generates money.
- The water conservation program was initiated to reduce the flow of water going to WPCP. At that time, spending \$1.00 on conservation saved \$11.00 on rebuilding. There are other savings to be looked at.
- If water is scarce, there should be fees to reflect the true value of water.
- Suggestion was made that the City should encourage artificial lawn products and water tolerant landscaping to reduce the amount of water used on landscaping.
- The use of “purple pipe” recycled water at the airport is a significant use of recycled water.
- San Jose may benefit from the water infrastructure bond to preserve and enhance recycled water.
- Recycled water should be considered for residential use.
- New developments should be dual piped.
- Incentives are a good way to promote water conservation.
- The governor recently signed bill allowing condominiums to use recycled water.
- The reason the City began a recycled water program was that too much clean water was being discharged into the bay. May have the same problem in the future. Regulations are getting stricter.
- There needs to be a discussion on the Urban Growth Boundary and Coyote Valley as a recharge area.

c. Flooding

The Task Force provided the following comments:

- Need to consider the interdependencies between San Jose and other jurisdictions.
- Should look at cost of flood plain management as opposed to flood control.
- Need to consider the cost of both 100 year and 200 year flood insurance.

4. Discussion on possible sustainability indicators for the City of San Jose – Michael Brilliot, Senior Planner, with the City of San Jose Department of Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement

The Task Force suggested considering the following sustainability measurements:

- Vehicle miles traveled
- Amount of infill development
- Amount of vacant land
- Energy consumption
- Energy production
- Alcohol sales in low income neighborhoods
- Accessibility of services
- Commute time
- Access to urgent care/hospitals

The Task Force provided the following comments:

- Need to understand the work plan before there is a discussion on indicators.
- Would like to see data instead of having broad discussions. Would like to interject more meaningful dialogue.
- Glad to see food and the carbon footprint addressed as measures.
- Would like to see a report on how this General Plan Update compares with past General Plans.
- Should ask the Task Force questions at the beginning of the presentation, not at the end.
- Metering by service areas does not give much incentive to conserve. Departments should be metered individually.
- Need to get to the “meat” of the general plan. Need to address topics such as housing, jobs, and transportation, so the Task Force can have an interactive dialogue and start making decisions. Worried that the discussion of fundamentals will be rushed into the end. The meetings cannot continue to just be presentations.
- The presentations are helpful, but the Task Force is not having an opportunity to discuss the issues.
- All the indicators presented are good.

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- Suggests looking at three communities that are good examples of sustainability: 1. Santa Monica (regarding quality job creation and the cost of living); 2. Sustainable Seattle (regarding health care); and 3. Hamilton, Canada (annual sustainability indicator).
- Need to discuss how to move forward in the process. The meetings are only scratching the surface of the topics, instead of going deeper into discussion.
- Important to identify the purpose of the discussion, then explain the desired outcome. The Task Force may already have a lot of information.
- Staff should identify key issues that the General Plan Update will need to address.
- Appreciate seeing several months of work laid out, but need to look at a timeline, and figure out when to have critical discussions. Need to start at the deadline date, then backfill.
- Need a timeline that projects a minimum of six months.
- Would like to see what other cities are doing, and discuss how San Jose can do the same.
- Need to identify programs that will improve quality of life, i.e. community centers, sports, education.
- Should look at successful measurements from other cities and use them in San Jose.
- Suggests giving real scenarios of situations that may happen in the future at the end of each presentation. Then can make decision as group. But if we need to make a decision, then should have that discussion. Need to decide what we want to do, but have those mini discussions prior to larger discussion.
- Should not have such a huge list of measures.
- Would like to see what joint venture came up with.
- Having a lot of indicators suggest there are a lot of priorities. But need to focus. Want to continue conversation.
- Need to see demographic information. May influence sustainability measures.

5. Discussion of Work Program clarifications regarding Urban Growth Boundary, Historic Preservation and other topics (moved to next meeting)

6. Announcements

None.

7. Public Comment

The public provided the following comments:

- Housing costs are increasing. Need to study the urban growth boundary. Smart growth does not work. Should study cities like Houston instead of Portland. In Houston, the average cost of housing is \$125,000. San Jose is similar to Los Angeles.
- More development increases water use. Concerned about over-developing. Where is the water going to come from? Alviso is over-developed. Need a mass education campaign to change lifestyles.

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- The quality of life has gone downhill in the past couple of years. There is not enough community involvement. Need roundtable discussions that address values, with a representative from each City department. Suggests developing the Santa Clara County fairgrounds into an international park.
- The Task Force should adopt goals similar to the Department of Environmental Services (ESD). There are inconsistent policies within current General Plan. Should allow ESD to lead the effort to make the General Plan sustainable. Should include green building policies. In terms of sustainable economic development, the City should support and integrate local economic development strategies, i.e. the Berryessa flea market could be used as a model for other neighborhood districts.
- Wants to push for recycled water use in private residences. The City should encourage installation of grey water systems.
- Would like Silicon Valley to be the healthiest community in the nation. The City needs to include a separate health element in the General Plan Update. The Health Trust has identified the inclusion of a health element in the General Plan Update as key strategy for healthy living.
- Appreciates addressing water in the meeting. Disappointed that North San Jose did not follow similar guidelines. Suggests to consider the use of recycled water; it is a safe process. Some areas, such as Orange County, San Diego, and Las Vegas, are mandating recycled water use. Happy to see the City use recycled water, but not doing enough of it. The Alviso master plan has been successful. North San Jose has not been successful because it was on a tight time schedule.
- All issues are integrated with each other; decisions cannot be made without thinking about water. Community issues, such as alcohol, are related to safety/gang issues.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m.

Next Task Force Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 27, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.