



**CITY OF BUCKEYE
JOINT WORKSHOP
OF THE
BUCKEYE CITY COUNCIL
AND
BUCKEYE CITY PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
MARCH 15, 2016
MINUTES**

**Executive Conference Room
530 E. Monroe Ave.
Buckeye, AZ 85326
3:15 p.m.**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Mayor Meck called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.

Members Present: Councilmember Strauss, Councilmember Orsborn, Councilmember McAchrans (excused at 3:52 p.m.; returned at 3:54 p.m.), Councilmember Heustis (excused at 4:19 p.m.; returned at 4:24 p.m.), Vice Mayor Hess, and Mayor Meck.

Commissioner Marcinko, Chairperson Kempfiak, Commissioner Clemmons, and Alternate Kupcik.

Members Absent: Councilmember Garza.

Commissioner Nagy, Commissioner Hundley, Commissioner Bedoya, Vice Chairperson Hudec, Alternate Knight, Alternate Reese, Alternate Elliott, and Alternate Mity.

Departments Present: City Manager Stephen Cleveland, City Attorney Scott Ruby, City Clerk Lucinda Aja, Deputy City Clerk Summer Stewart, Assistant to Council Carol Conley, Development Services Director George Flores, City Engineer Scott Zipprich, Finance Director Larry Price, Economic Development Director Len Becker, Chief Communications Officer Jennifer Rogers, and Planning Manager Terri Hogan.

2. Discussion Regarding the General Plan Update

Mr. Cleveland opened the presentation and introduced Celeste Werner, Project Manager with Matrix Design Group, Inc. Ms. Werner introduced Deputy Project Manager Felipe Zubia and Technical Manager Rick Rust. Subconsultants were listed and include Jennifer Love of Parsons Brinckerhoff and Alan Maguire of the Maguire Company. An overview of the Matrix Design Group (“Matrix”) was presented. The definition of a General Plan was provided; a General Plan is long term, comprehensive, and general in nature. The General Plan provides Buckeye’s vision for the future to include land use, goals, and policies and programs that guide the community towards achieving its vision. The planning hierarchy was

addressed. All cities in the State of Arizona are required by statute to update their General Plan every ten years. Cities with a population of more than 50,000 are required to adopt a General Plan that contains 17 elements. The existing General Plan, ratified in 2008, consists of seven elements. Elements required by the state include land use, circulation, growth areas, cost of development, environmental planning, and water resources. The existing elective element that will be included in the update is economic development. Additional requirements for cities with a population exceeding 50,000 include housing, neighborhood preservation and revitalization, conservation, rehabilitation and redevelopment, public services and facilities, public buildings, conservation, open space, recreation, bicycling, safety, and energy. The three components that will be included in the update are a land use diagram, policy document, and an implementation plan. A brief overview of each element was provided. The scope of work was discussed with six phases including project start-up, map atlas, visioning and scenarios, General Plan draft, public hearings, and voter ratification. The work program and project schedule was addressed along with project scope and milestones. Future workshops will be held with Council and meetings with staff are currently being held. An overview of public involvement activity was discussed. Project branding was addressed; the project logo was presented along with the slogan “Imagine Buckeye”. Key stakeholders meetings will be held along with community workshops. A project website is being created (www.imaginebuckeye2040.com) and social media outlets will be utilized. General Plan steering committee meetings will be held; the steering committee consists of Planning and Zoning Commission members and alternates. Timelines will be provided to Council and Planning and Zoning Commission members and the project website will include general timeline information. Councilmember Strauss commented on the importance of this project and the responsibility of Council and staff moving forward. Mr. Rust discussed the process of evaluating the current General Plan, determining what didn’t work and why, and what is realistic; staff will be provided with the information and will have an opportunity to answer questions and provide additional input. The goal is to have a realistic plan that can be implemented. Vice Mayor Hess discussed citizen input and the importance of providing an opportunity to the community to be educated regarding the General Plan and adjusting the strategy to address utilizing technology. Ms. Werner stated an application (“app”) will be made available for use with smart phones and computers; the app will allow the community to provide input and will allow for increased public involvement. The ambassador program was summarized. Chairperson Kempniak asked for clarification regarding the City’s vision and how it relates to the slogan “Imagine Buckeye”. Ms. Werner stated the City’s vision will be created and implemented into the General Plan as the process moves forward. Councilmember Orsborn requested further information regarding entitled land, current usable parcels, and utilizing concepts and ideas that have worked in other communities. Ms. Werner provided additional information related to defining land use categories and policies, growth boundaries, and the impacts of actions, strategies and implementation. The importance of community education was addressed. General discussion was held regarding development agreements, including the expiration dates and renewal of existing development agreements. Mr. Zubia provided additional information regarding growth, growth areas, and growth boundaries; build-out in the growth areas was discussed. Mr. Cleveland provided further information regarding future development and development agreements associated with potential developments. Mr. Ruby provided further clarification regarding development agreements and provisions associated with past and future agreements. General discussion was held regarding transit and the importance of planning for growth. Ms. Werner discussed land use alternative. Mr. Zubia stated land use alternative scenarios will be evaluated based on population density in specific areas in order to analyze impacts, including carbon footprint; land use alternative scenarios will help to determine what will reasonably be supported, including future transit projects. Youth outreach was discussed. Ms. Werner thanked Council and the Planning and Zoning Commission for their input and cooperation.

3. Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilmember Orsborn and seconded by Vice Mayor Hess to adjourn the meeting at 4:31 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Jackie A. Meck, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lucinda J. Aja, City Clerk

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the Joint Workshop of the Buckeye City Council and Planning and Zoning Commission held on the 15th day of March, 2016. I further certify that a quorum was present.

Lucinda J. Aja, City Clerk