2011 GENERAL PLAN COMMITTEE

Community Development Department

Agenda

2011 General Plan Committee
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, July 11, 2012
4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Downstairs Conference Room, City Hall
201 S. Cortez Street
Prescott, Arizona
928-777-1207

The following agenda will be considered by the Prescott General Plan Committee at its regular meeting on Wednesday, July 11, 2012 in the downstairs conference room, City Hall, 201 S. Cortez Street, Prescott, AZ. Notice of this meeting is given pursuant to *Arizona Revised Statutes*, Section 38-431.02.

I. Call to Order

II. Attendance

MEMBERS	
Miriam Haubrich, Co-Chair	Elisabeth Rufiner
Terry Marshall, Co-Chair	George Sheats
Brad Devries	Gary Worob
Dave Fisher	
Glenn Gooding	***EX OFFICIO***
Zena Mitchell	Steve Blair, Councilman
Roxane Nielsen	Chris Kuknyo, Councilman
David Quinn	

III. Announcements

IV. Regular Items

1. Consider approval of the minutes of the June 13, 2012 and June 27, 2012 meetings.
   Minutes for both meetings will be postponed to the next regular meeting.

2. Discussion of the Environmental Planning Element.

3. Call to the public.

V. Adjournment

THE CITY OF PRESCOTT ENDEAVORS TO MAKE ALL PUBLIC MEETINGS ACCESSIBLE TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. WITH 48 HOURS ADVANCE NOTICE, SPECIAL ASSISTANCE CAN BE PROVIDED FOR SIGHT AND/OR HEARING IMPAIRED PERSONS AT PUBLIC MEETINGS. PLEASE CALL 777-1272 OR 777-1100 (TDD) TO REQUEST AN ACCOMMODATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING.

CERTIFICATION OF POSTING OF NOTICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing notice was duly posted at Prescott City Hall and on the City's website on July 6, 2012 at 2:00 PM in accordance with the statement filed with the City Clerk's Office.

Suzanne Derryberry

Suzanne Derryberry, Administrative Specialist

2011 General Plan Committee

Community Development

Date: Wednesday, July 11, 2012

To: Councilman Steve Blair, Brad Devries, Dave Fisher, Glenn Gooding, Miriam Haubrich, Councilman Chris Kuknyo, Terry Marshall, Zena Mitchell, Roxanne Nielsen, David Quinn, Elisabeth Ruffner, George Sheats and Gary Worob

From: Tom Guice, Community Development Director
George Worley, Planning Manager
Ryan Smith, Community Planner

Staff Memo
Draft Environmental Planning Element - Suggested Changes

PURPOSE:
To discuss updates to the Environmental Planning Element and address suggested changes by staff. After reading the draft individually prior to the meeting, please be prepared to discuss any requested changes to the text, goals and strategies regarding the content and character of the element. Grammatical corrections or simple word substitutions that do not change the character of the element may be submitted to staff prior to the meeting.

CHANGES MADE:
The Element has also been edited for continuity. Information covered in other elements has been minimized. Text has been reworded and updated for clarification and consistency of information. Text, goals and strategies were modified or deleted to reflect City activities and directives that are currently mandated by other documents or agencies.

9.0 ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING ELEMENT

A.R.S 9-461.05

3. An environmental planning element that contains analysis, policies and strategies to address anticipated effects, if any, of plan elements on air quality, water quality and natural resources associated with proposed development under the general plan. The policies and strategies to be developed under this element shall be designed to have community-wide applicability and shall not require the production of an additional environmental impact statement or similar analysis beyond the requirements of state and federal law.

9.1 AIR QUALITY

During the early 20th century, Prescott's clean air and temperate climate drew many respiratory patients to the area for treatment. Today, good air quality remains an asset of the community, helping to draw tourists and those seeking lifestyles away from large urban areas with poor air quality. Continued urbanization with its associated increase in traffic may degrade Prescott's air quality in the future, potentially having a negative effect on tourism, growth and the quality of life for the existing population.

Dust, smoke and automobile emissions are sources of urban air pollution. Smoke is a problem during winter months from wood burning fireplaces and stoves. In the warmer dry months dust affects air quality due to dirt roads and construction activities, exacerbated by a continuing drought.

9.1.2 Challenges

Although some air pollution is brought into the area by natural air movements, the community can improve air quality by discouraging local pollution. The Circulation Element addresses a reduction in automobile dependence through alternative transportation; however, the overall environment in Prescott is affected by individual auto use.

9.1.3 Air Quality Goals and Implementation Strategies

Goal 1. Maintain Prescott's existing good air quality by protecting it from degradation.

Strategy 1.1 Require installation of after-burners or other means of reducing particulate emissions on new wood burning stoves and fireplaces within the City.

Strategy 1.2 Continue the current program of paving unpaved roads within the City. Apply new technologies and methods where appropriate.

Strategy 1.3 Maintain road sweeping, especially during dry periods, to reduce dust particulate air pollution.

Goal 2. Promote alternative transportation strategies in order to reduce vehicle emissions.

Strategy 2.1 Partner with CYMPO and private industry to develop a transit system when funding is available and where service is feasible.

Strategy 2.2 Expand the scope and connectivity of the bicycle, pedestrian and trails circulation systems within the city by linking existing networks.

9.2 WATER QUALITY

Prescott enjoys good water quality from deep wells. The City is a water service provider operating a water supply, treatment and distribution system as well as a wastewater collection and treatment system. The water and wastewater systems are operated in compliance with federal and state water quality regulations.

The Arizona Groundwater Code of 1980 established an Active Management Area (AMA) to protect water aquifers from depletion beyond the level being recharged, a condition known as "safe yield." The Prescott AMA includes Prescott, Prescott Valley, Chino Valley, the Yavapai-Prescott Indian Reservation and surrounding county areas. The AMA has been determined to be in a state of water mining, where water is being depleted faster than it is recharged. Strategies to achieve safe-yield include importation of water from outside the AMA and the recapture of sufficient quantifies of effluent for use in recharging the aquifer.

9.2.2 Challenges

A sustainable balance of water quality, water use, conservation, importation and recharge must be attained by 2025. The goal requires mitigation strategies with consensus among various water stakeholders. City plans, water allocation policies and adopted codes address water quality and supply issues. These plans, policies and codes should be periodically reevaluated and revised accordingly. More information regarding water may be found in the Water Resources Element.

9.2.3 Water Quality Goals and Implementation Strategies

Goal 1. Protect surface waters and recharge areas to maintain the high quality of Prescott's water.

Strategy 1.1 Strengthen requirements for building on sites with steep grades to prevent erosion from stormwater runoff.

Strategy 1.2 Discourage industrial development that requires a high volume of water or has the potential to pollute the Little Chino aquifer or surface waters.

9.3 WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

The conservation of open space and wildlife corridors is an effective way to assist indigenous wildlife and migratory species impacted by human development. There is a particular need in the Prescott area for wildlife corridors to interconnect Pronghorn herds. The Airport Specific Area Plan attempts to address this concern by providing a north/south open space corridor along Granite Creek. Augmentation of these corridors through acquisition and conservation of open space during the subdivision platting process is an important step in this process.

9.3.2 Challenges

New subdivisions and other projects may be required to evaluate flora and fauna within their development areas, and plan appropriate corridors to provide safe migration routes. These areas should connect with other open spaces such as parks, golf courses and trails and be designed so that they may be used by migrating wildlife as part of an interconnected cluster of corridors.

9.3.3 Wildlife Corridors Implementation Strategies

Goal 1. Improve the protection of migratory species through the interconnectivity of open spaces and wildlife corridors.

Strategy 1.1 Require developments to identify migratory animal species within their development sites and preserve appropriate wildlife corridors.

Strategy 1.2 Plan for connectivity of open spaces and wildlife corridors using Specific Area Plans, neighborhood plans, subdivision master plans, or other appropriate planning tools.

Strategy 1.3 Coordinate with adjoining jurisdictions to assure regional connectivity of open space and wildlife corridors.

9.4 GROWTH MANAGEMENT

Prescott's citizens value growth management requiring viewshed, greenways, trails, parks, and wildlife corridors in development designs. Growth management plans adopted by the City Council should require open space and trail components to be included in new development. By updating Prescott's 2003 Bicycle and Pedestrian Circulation Plan, a significant planning tool would be available for enhancement of this system. Regional cooperation allows Prescott and its neighbors to work together to protect sensitive open space areas and to link internal trails and open spaces together to provide regional access and interconnectivity of our trail systems.

9.4.2 Challenges

Growth must be actively managed to assure sustainability of natural resources and to further enhance quality of life. The positive benefits from growth management affect the region. Growth policies of each jurisdiction in the region affect neighboring jurisdictions. To avoid harmful or incompatible development along common boundaries, Prescott and neighboring jurisdictions pursue regional coordination.

To conserve wildlife corridors, greenways and parks, growth management requires participation by both the City and developers when considering subdivision plats and Planned Area Developments. New developments that promote sustainability by discouraging urban sprawl, considering open space, wildlife corridor connectivity and jurisdictional boundaries should be encouraged.

9.4.3 Growth Management Implementation Strategies

Goal 1. Develop strong community support for active growth management through sustainable development practices such as compact development and pedestrian connectivity.

Strategy 1.1 Conduct an on-going public outreach program addressing the benefits of sustainable growth practices through available media resources such as Access 13, the City's website and the various local news organizations.

Strategy 1.2 Promote compact development options by adopting alternative development and subdivision code options such as Form Based Codes. Promote the use of such alternatives by providing incentives in the form of density bonuses, reduced limitations on allowable uses and reduced parking requirements.

Strategy 1.3 Require the provision of sidewalks in new subdivisions where such sidewalks provide new or improved pedestrian circulation.

Goal 2. Encourage creative, environmentally sensitive, development design for designated growth and/or re-development areas.

Strategy 2.1 Promote the use of the Planned Area Development process for all new developments within areas designated as transition or growth areas by this General Plan.

Strategy 2.2 Support the land uses designated in existing Specific Area Plans. Avoid change to the land uses specified in existing Area Plans unless significant public benefit will be gained by such change.

Goal 3. Support the linkage of public and private open space and trail systems to serve the community more efficiently.

Strategy 3.1 Encourage new developments to designate open space areas that adjoin and link to existing public or private open space areas.

Strategy 3.2 Require the creation of publicly accessible trails in new subdivisions where such trails can provide new or improved connectivity for existing trail networks.

9.5 REGIONAL COOPERATION

A regional approach to growth management, wildlife corridors, open space, recreation, transportation and land planning is important to the protection of natural resources and effective sustainable use of the land.

Regional coordination and cooperation can reduce incompatible land uses at corporate and planning boundaries and reduce the demands upon individual jurisdictions by allowing adjacent communities to provide complementary services. Provision of complementary services rather than duplicated or competing services is more practical and cost effective. For example, one community may develop a park near a common planning boundary, while the adjacent community creates a hiking trail.

For regional roadway coordination, the Central Yavapai Metropolitan Planning Organization (CYMPO) is the principal forum for local government cooperation. Managing and improving the regional roadway network is important to all jurisdictions in the area. Prescott, as a primary economic driver in the region, should maintain an active role in CYMPO and should promote land use planning as an integral part of regional transportation planning.

9.5.2 Regional Cooperation Implementation Strategies

Goal 1. Coordinate with other regional entities to provide recreational, open space and transportation opportunities to the residents of Prescott.

Strategy 1.1 Actively participate in regional organizations to assure that the interests of Prescott are appropriately communicated and protected.

Strategy 1.2 Meet regularly with each of Prescott's regional neighbors to coordinate projects having regional implications and to avoid duplication of services and amenities such as parks, trails and library facilities.