



REPORT TO COUNCIL

City of Sacramento

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604
www. CityofSacramento.org

Information
June 26, 2007

**Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council**

Title: Status Report on the Spring 2007 Planning Academy

Location/Council District: Citywide program encompassing all Council Districts

Recommendation: Receive and File

Contact: Helen Selph, Assistant Planner, 808-7852; Raymond Costantino, Assistant Planner, 808-8826; Jim McDonald AICP, Senior Planner, 808-5723

Presenters: Helen Selph, Assistant Planner, 808-7852;

Department: Planning Department

Division: Long Range Planning

Organization No: 4912

Description

The Spring 2007 Planning Academy is the 8th Planning Academy session since the Planning Academy was initiated in 2002. Twenty five participants completed the spring session, bringing the cumulative total of graduates to 223. The graduates represent each of the Council Districts, and embody a diversity of perspectives and affiliations. A roster of the participants is provided on pages 5-6 (Attachment 2).

Policy Considerations: The Planning Academy is consistent with the City's Smart Growth Principles, and the City's goal of reconnecting with its neighborhoods and enhancing educational opportunities for the entire community, as stated in the City's Strategic Plan. City Council directed staff to create a smart growth implementation strategy, which would include the Planning Academy, when it adopted Smart Growth Principles into the General Plan on December 4, 2001. Since its inception, the Planning Academy has provided information to citizens about the benefits of Smart Growth and how to more effectively participate in future planning efforts.

Committee/Commission Action: None is required for this report

Environmental Considerations: Not applicable

Rationale for Recommendation: Not applicable

Financial Considerations: The Planning Academy costs approximately \$5,000 per course to operate, not including in-kind staff time, depending on the number of participants and course length. Costs are funded through the Planning Department's operating budget.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): Not applicable

Respectfully Submitted by: 
Thomas S. Pace,
Long Range Planning Manager, Planning Department

Approved by: 
Carol Shearly
Director of Planning, Planning Department

Recommendation Approved:


Ray Kerridge
City Manager

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ATTACHMENT 1

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Purpose of the Planning Academy:

- To encourage citizens and other stakeholders to participate in the City's planning process by providing information about the planning process (MATRIX, General Plan, Zoning, California Environmental Quality Act [CEQA])
- To help participants become more effective community advocates for good planning by helping facilitate a better understanding of the complex issues that growth and development encompass.

History of the Planning Academy:

- City Council directed staff to create a Smart Growth implementation strategy, which would include the Planning Academy, when it adopted Smart Growth Principles into the General Plan on December 4, 2001.
- The first classes took place in 2002 and 2003.
- Eight Planning Academy courses have been completed, including Spring 2007
- The Planning Academy received the American Planning Association's *Leadership and Service Education Program Award* in 2003.

Planning Academy Graduates:

- Cumulative total to date: 223
- Graduates are more effective in their respective neighborhood organizations
- Many have served on various City committees and commissions, such as the Planning Commission, Design Review Commission, General Plan Advisory Committee, Project Area Committees (PACS), Redevelopment Advisory Committees (RACS), even on City Council.

Selection Process:

- Spring 2007 participants were selected from 94 people who applied in response to the City's recruitment efforts.
- Applications were reviewed to determine each applicant's interest in community involvement, in particular activities related to community planning.
- The goal was to select those participants deemed most likely to participate in future planning decisions and share their knowledge and experience through community participation.
- Staff also strived for balanced participant representation from all council districts.

Course Content:

The Spring 2007 Planning Academy consisted of nine class sessions and two field trips over an eleven-week period. Participants were exposed to a variety of speakers and topics. The course syllabus outlines specific topics and lists individual speakers and is attached on pages 7-15 (Attachment 3). The following topics were covered in the course:

- The City's current planning process: zoning, design review, historic preservation, & the MATRIX.
- Environmental review and CEQA compliance
- The role of the General Plan and Community Plans
- The status of the City's General Plan Update & tour of opportunity areas
- Regional planning & the SACOG Blueprint
- Smart growth principles and practices
- Housing, affordable housing and jobs/housing balance
- Downtown revitalization projects, walking tour of the downtown
- Ecological building, sustainability and the City's Draft Sustainability Master Plan
- Planning for public health & livability
- Transit oriented development and the inter-dependent relationship between land use and transportation
- Effective participation in the planning process and, in turn, inspiring and training other community members

Planning Academy Speakers:

Speakers included individuals from the private sector and public officials, including architects and developers as well as representatives from the following agencies and organizations:

- City of Sacramento, Planning Department
- City of Sacramento, Development Services Department
- Capitol Area Development Authority (CADA)
- Local Government Commission (LGC)
- Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG)
- Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Authority (SHRA)
- California Energy Commission (CEC)
- Regional Transit (RT)
- County of Sacramento, Department of Health and Human Services
- Professionals from the development sector (Regis Homes and Mogavero Notestine Associates)

Feedback & Continual Improvement:

Academy participants are given the opportunity to evaluate the speakers and the value of each class. At the conclusion of the course, they are given an opportunity to evaluate the course as a whole. Suggestions from speakers are also considered.

Schedule: The Academy is usually offered twice annually, in the spring and fall. Class length and timing during the General Plan Update may vary, depending on staff workload. The next Planning Academy is tentatively scheduled for fall of 2007.

ATTACHMENT 2**SPRING 2007 PLANNING ACADEMY PARTICIPANT LIST**

Council District	Name	Affiliation/Activities
1	Alvarado, Richard	Natomas Creek Neighborhood Association; Natomas Community Association.
8	Bain, David	City of Sacramento - Disability Access Commission, Crocker Museum - Art Access Committee, Cabrillo Park Neighborhood Association.
6	Barrios, Alex	College Glen Neighborhood Association; People United for a Better Sacramento; League of United Latin American Citizens; Sac County Young Democrats.
4	Bodea, Timothy	Attended General Plan Advisory Committee sessions.
3	Castoreno, Verlene	Ben Ali Community Association.
4	Clancy, Sean	Southside Park Neighborhood Association (former co-chair).
3	Cornelius, Nancy	Vice President, McKinley East Sacramento Neighborhood Association Co-Chair Land Use Committee.
4	Foster, Julie	Sacramento County Cemetery Advisory Board.
7	Green, Ted	Sacramento Municipal Utility District - SMUD EMPLOYEE; Sacramento Local Conservation Corps - SLCC BOARD MEMBER.
7	Griffin, Georgianna	
1	Kleinknecht, Patty	Area 1 Neighborhood Advisory Group; Public Safety Team (Area 1); Sacramento County & Cities Board on Homelessness (now Interagency Council); Community Advisory Committee for the Consolidated Social Services Complex; Downtown Sacramento Revitalization Corporation.; Ten Year Plan Outreach & Central Intake Workgroup.
1	LaBarge Esq., Wendy	Design Commission (New); Design Review & Preservation Board; Alkali-Mansion Flat Historic Neighborhood Association; Sac City Animal Shelter Volunteer.
5	Lawson, Latisha	Oak Park Neighborhood Association Board Member; Oak Park Redevelopment Advisory Committee; Oak Park Policy Prevention Board, Birth & Beyond Management Committee; OPAL (Community Group w/First 5 Grant).
1 (work)	Legg, Linda	Research Manager, Sacramento Downtown Partnership.
3	Marshack, Jon	Sacramento Old City Association; Boulevard Park Neighborhood Association; Save Our Rail Depot Steering Committee; Preservation Round Table; Former member and Vice-Chair of the Design Review and Preservation Board.
5	McDaniel, Lois	New Opportunities Adult Day Program for Autistic Adults; Wiggs Inc. (Women in God Services).

Council District	Name	Affiliation/Activities
2	Meyer, Alan	Active in Woodlake Neighborhood Association, volunteer with River City Community Service; and active in Renaissance Society.
6	Olson, Gordon R.	Elmhurst Neighborhood Association Board Member.
1	Porter, Roman	Attending Meetings of the Natomas Community Association.
5	Rosenhall, Jeffrey S.	Sacramento City/County Bicycle Advisory Committee, member; Sacramento Bicycle Kitchen, Founding Board member; Tahoe Park Neighborhood Association; Congregation B'nai Israel.
3	Schmidt, Lisa	McKinley East Sacramento Neighborhood Association - Board Member and Treasurer; Friends of McKinley Library - Past President; Sacramento Public Library Authority Board - representative for County Supervisor Susan Peters; Pops in the Park Committee - member; East Sacramento Improvement Association - member; Sacramento Bungalow Heritage Association - member; Sacramento Art Deco Society - member.
3	Shah, Cyril	Chairman of Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Commission; Board Member, Sacramento Heritage, Inc.; Board Member, East Sacramento Improvement Association; Fund Development Committee Member, Sacramento Area Emergency Housing Center; author of East Sac Life column, Inside East Sacramento; member/supporter, Crocker Art Museum; member, East Sacramento Chamber of Commerce; supporter, Mayor's Summer Reading Camp; participant, City Leadership Workshop; Honorary Deputy Sheriff, Sacramento County Sheriff's Department; member, supporter, and/or participant of many other local community organizations.
2	Thao, Cathy	Grant's Environmental Organization; Hmong Big Sib Little Sib Program; Grant High School Hmong Club; Hmong International Unity, Inc., Maximum Real Estate; Moneymaxlending.com; Sacramento Association of Realtors.
6	Uplinger, Patti	GPAC, Tallac Village Neighborhood Association, Leader; Sacramento Housing Alliance Board, Vice President.
4	Willmann, Zachary	Sacramento Area Citizens for Responsible Growth.

ATTACHMENT 3

**SPRING 2007 CITY OF SACRAMENTO
PLANNING ACADEMY
APRIL 9- JUNE 11, 2007**

COURSE SYLLABUS

Class 1: Welcome, Planning Academy Objectives, Planning 101 (Part 1)

DATE: Monday, April 9th, 5:30-8:30pm

LOCATION: New City Hall, 915 I Street, 5th Floor, Conf. Rm. 5110

THEME: Planning 101 – Overview of Planning and Review of Development Projects

5:30pm Dinner (buffet style)

- Icebreaker: Have they ever needed a building permit? What was your experience?

5:45 pm: Meeting Facilitators – Helen Selph (916-808-7852) and Raymond Costantino (916 808-8826)

- Introductions
- Overview of City Planning Academy objectives and policies
- Ground Rules

6:15 pm: Speaker – Jim McDonald AICP, Senior Planner, Long Range Planning, Planning Department

- Brief History of Planning
- Planning Overview
- How City departments are organized

7:00 pm: Q&A

7:15 pm: Speaker – Willie Harris, Senior Project Manager, Development Services Department

- Overview of the MATRIX
- How to obtain information about development projects

7:45pm: Q & A

8:05-8:30pm: Closing Announcements & Speaker Evaluation

Readings and Exercise for next week:

Observe design in your neighborhood – are there “McMansions” or other design issues?

DSD newsletter & information

Planning Dept. newsletter & information

Readings for next class – A Citizen’s Guide to Planning

**Class 2: Planning 101 Continued (Part 2) Implementation of the
City's General Plan: Zoning, Design Review, Historic Preservation, & CEQA**

DATE: Monday, April 16, 5:30-8:30pm

LOCATION: New City Hall, 915 I Street, 5th Floor, Conf. Rm. 5110

THEME: Planning 101 Continued

5:30pm Dinner (buffet style)

- Icebreaker: Design issues in your neighborhood. Should they, and their neighbors, be held to a higher level design standard? etc.

5:40 pm Meeting Facilitator – Raymond Costantino (916) 808-8826,
rcostantino@cityofsacramento.org

- Planning 101 part 2 – Context
- Announcements

5:50 pm: Speaker – Lindsey Alagozian, Senior Planner, Development Services Department;
• Zoning

6:10 pm: Q&A - Zoning

6:25pm: Speaker Tom Buford, Senior Planner, Development Services Department
• California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

6:45pm: Q & A - CEQA

7:00pm Break

7:10pm Luis R. Sanchez, AIA, Senior Architect, Development Services Department
• Design Review

7:30pm Q & A – Design Review

7:45 pm Roberta Deering, Historic Preservation Director, Development Services Department
Historic Preservation

8:05 pm Q & A – Historic Preservation

8:20-8:30pm: Closing Announcements & Speaker Evaluation

Readings: CEQA: The California Environmental Quality Act
A Citizen's Guide to Planning

Other resources: <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/dsd/>
<http://www.cityofsacramento.org/planning/>

Class 3: The New General Plan

DATE: Monday, Wednesday, April 25th, 5:30pm-8:30pm

LOCATION: New City Hall, 915 I Street, 5th Floor, Conf. Rm. 5110,

THEME: Overview of General Plans & the City's New General Plan update.

5:30pm Dinner (buffet style)

- Icebreaker: Is your neighborhood "complete"?

5:45pm: Meeting Facilitator – Helen Selph (916)-808-7852, hselph@cityofsacramento.org

- Overview & Context

6:00 pm: Speaker – Tom Pace, Principal Planner, Long Range Planning, Planning Department
Speaker – Remi Mendoza: Assistant Planner, Long Range Planning, Planning Department

- How General Plans regulate development
- A new General Plan for the City of Sacramento
- General Plan Opportunity Areas
- Exercise: City Leadership Work

6:45pm: Q&A

7:00pm: Desmond Parrington, Infill Coordinator, New Growth, Planning Department
Emily Halcon, Management Analyst, Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Authority (SHRA)

- Affordable Housing and Jobs/Housing Balance
- The Housing Element
- Mixed Income Ordinance
- Housing Trust Fund Fee Program
- SRO Ordinance
- Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness

7:45pm: Q&A

8:00-8:30pm: Closing Announcements & Speaker Evaluation

Homework: *City Leadership Workshop Workbook* – Read & complete series of 4 exercises prior to class

Also, go to <http://www.sacgp.org/overview.html> and go through webpage and links

Saturday General Plan Tour

Date: April 28th, 8:30 am-12:00 noon (Meeting at 8:30am and leaving promptly at 9:00pm)

Meeting Location: New City Hall, 915 I Street (We will be meeting at the passenger loading area on the backside of the New City Hall facing H Street between 9th and 10th Streets)

Tour Leader: Jim McDonald, Senior Planner, Long Range Planning, Planning Department

Tour Coordinator: Raymond Costantino (916 808-8826), rcostantino@cityofsacramento.org

Readings (prior to tour): R-Street Corridor Revitalization Plan

Readings: Sacramento General Plan Update Q&A
Sacramento General Plan Update Snapshot

Class 4: Regional Planning for Smart Growth and Livability

DATE: Monday, April 30th, 5:30-8:30pm

LOCATION: New City Hall, 915 I Street, 5th Floor, Conf. Rm. 5110,

THEME: Smart Growth and Regional Planning

5:30pm Dinner (buffet style)
Icebreaker: Your impressions and thoughts after Saturday's General Plan Tour

5:45pm: Meeting Facilitator – Raymond Costantino (916 808-8826),
• Introductions, overview & context
• Announcements

6:00 pm: Paul Zykofsky, Local Government Commission
• Smart Growth, Livability, and the Public Realm

6:50pm: Q&A

7:10pm: Speaker – Kacey Lizon, Blueprint Implementation Coordinator, Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG)
• Sacramento Region: Blueprint Transportation and Land Use Study

7:55pm: Q&A

8:15-8:30pm: Closing Announcements & Speaker Evaluation

Readings: The Ahwahnee Principles
Better Ways to Grow - Seven Principles of Growth
Special Report: SACOG Preferred Blueprint Alternative

Other Resources:
http://www.sacregionblueprint.org/sacregionblueprint/the_project/localGovtFeatures.cfm

Class 5: Smart Growth in Sacramento?

DATE: Monday, May 7th, 5:30-8:30pm

LOCATION: New City Hall, 915 I Street, 5th Floor, Conf. Rm. 5110,

THEME: What is Smart Growth? What does it look like? How can it help Sacramento become a more livable city?

5:30pm Dinner (buffet style)
Icebreaker: What do you think Smart Growth is, and how has your idea changed?

5:45pm Meeting Facilitator: Raymond Costantino (916-808-8826),
rcostantino@cityofsacramento.org

- Overview & Context
- Announcements

6:00pm: Speaker – David Mogavero, Architect
• Green Buildings and Infill Development

6:45pm: Q& A

7:00pm: Speaker – Eric Schlenker, Regis Homes
• Urban Infill Development

7:45pm: Q&A

8:00-8:30pm: Closing Announcements & Speaker Evaluation

Readings: *City of Sacramento Smart Growth Implementation Strategy*

Shining Places: Sacramento and National Examples of Smart Growth

Class 6: Sustainability

DATE: Monday, May 14th, 5:30-8:30pm

LOCATION: New City Hall, 915 I Street, 5th Floor, Conf. Rm. 5110,

THEME: Sustainability and Sustainable Development

5:30pm Dinner (buffet style)

Icebreaker: Personal responsibility – what is your “ecological footprint”?

5:45pm: Meeting Facilitator – Helen Selph (916)-808-7852, hselph@cityofsacramento.org

- Overview and Context
- Announcements

6:05 pm: Speaker – Panama Bartholemy

- Sustainable Development

6:50pm: Q&A

7:10pm: Speakers – Bob Chase, Chief Building Official; Helen Selph, Assistant Planner

- Creating a Sustainable City – Moving Sacramento Towards Sustainability

7:55pm: Q&A

8:15pm: Closing Announcements & Speaker Evaluation

Readings: Our Changing Climate- Assessing the Risks to California
Article: Fighting Pollution, Not Each Other

Exercise: Check out your ecological footprint at www.myfootprint.org before you come to class.

Saturday Central City and R Street Corridor Walking Tour

Date: May 19th, 8:30 am-12:00 noon (Meeting at 8:30am and leaving promptly at 9:00pm)

Meeting Location: Meeting at Crepeville at 18th and L Streets and ending at Safeway at 19th and S Streets

Tour Leaders: Evan Compton and Michael York, Development Services Department
Tom Kigar, Development Director, CADA

Tour Coordinator: Greg Sandlund (916 808-8931), gsandlund@cityofsacramento.org

Class 7: Health, Urban Design, & Livability

DATE: Wednesday, May 23rd, 5:30 – 8:30

LOCATION: New City Hall, 915 I. Street, 5th Floor, Conf. Rm. 5110,

THEME: What Does Land Use & Urban Design effect Health and Livability?

5:30pm: Dinner (buffet style)

Icebreaker: Impressions from downtown tour

5:45pm: Meeting Facilitator – Greg Sandlund (916-808-8931), gsandlund@cityofsacramento.org

- Overview and Context
- Group Photo

6:00pm: Speaker: Teri Duarte, Department of Health and Human Service, Sacramento County

- “Land Use Planning: What’s Health Got to do with it?”

6:45pm: Q & A

7:00pm: Speaker – Greg Taylor, Senior Architect, Development Services Department – Urban Design Alliance.

- Urban Design and Livability

7:45pm: Q & A

8:00pm: Closing Announcements, group photo & speaker evaluation

Readings: *Measuring the Health Effects of Sprawl*

Real Towns, What makes them Work?

Weighing in on City Planning

Other resources: *Land Use and Health* - <http://www.healthypanning.org/>

Class 8: Getting around in Sacramento: The Land Use and Transportation Connection

DATE: Monday, June 4th, 5:30-8:30pm

LOCATION: New City Hall, 915 I. Street, 5th Floor, Conf. Rm. 5110,

THEME: Perspectives on the transportation-land use connection. Is it possible to accommodate future growth without gridlock?

5:30pm: Dinner (buffet style)

Icebreaker: How do people get to work & back?

5:45pm: Meeting Facilitator – Greg Sandlund (916 808-8931), gsandlund@cityofsacramento.org

- Overview & Context
- Impression and thoughts of the Urban Design Tour from Saturday

6:00pm: Speaker – Sparky Harris, Senior Planner, DOT and Tara Goddard, DOT

- Level of Service Standards
- Alternate Modes
- Pedestrian Master Plan
- Bikeway Master Plan

6:45pm: Q&A

7:00pm: Speaker – Taiwo Jaiyeoba, Director of Planning, Regional Transit

- Public Transit Planning

7:45pm: Q & A

8:00 pm: Closing Announcements & Speaker Evaluation

Class 9: What does the future hold for Sacramento?

DATE: Monday, June 11, 5:30-8:30pm
LOCATION: New City Hall, 915 I. Street, 5th Floor, Conf. Rm. 5110,
THEME: Panel discussion on Obstacles to Smart Growth and the Importance of Citizen Involvement

- 5:30pm: Dinner (buffet style)
Icebreaker: How will you use what you've learned in Planning Academy?
- 5:40 Meeting Facilitators – Helen Selph (916-808-7852),
- Overview & Context
 - Introductions
- 5:45pm: Opening Remarks: Mayor Heather Fargo
- 6:00pm: Panel Discussion: Perspectives on Political setting, obstacles to Smart Growth and the Importance of Citizen Involvement in community planning.

Moderator: Liz Brenner, Neighborhood Services

Panelists

- Kevin McCarty, Councilmember
- Michael Notestine, Planning Commissioner, Architect
- Greg Bitter, Principle Planner, Development Services Department
- Brooks Truitt, Community Activist
- Alan Porter, General Plan Advisory Committee, Architect
- Bill Heartman, Regis Homes

- 7:00 Break
- 7:15 Q&A for Panel
- 8:00 pm: Liz Brenner – Closing Remarks on continued involvement
- 8:05-8:30 Closing announcements/Class evaluation

Readings: *For Urban Developers, a Hard Row to Hoe*
Sacramento's Older, Successful Neighborhoods: Can We Recreate Them?

Suggested Reading: *A Guide to California Planning by William Fulton (Book)*