



REPORT TO COUNCIL

City of Sacramento

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2671
www.CityofSacramento.org

SPECIAL PRESENTATION
November 29, 2005

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

Subject: Introduction of the Fall 2005 City Planning Academy and Academy Overview (M05-074)

Location and Council District:

Citywide

Recommendation:

This is an informational item to introduce the graduates of the Fall 2005 Planning Academy and provide a status report on the Academy.

Contacts: Helen Selph, Assistant Planner, 808-7852; Ashley Feeney, Assistant Planner, 808-1941; Jim McDonald, Senior Planner, 808-5723

Presenters: Helen Selph, Assistant Planner, 808-7852; Ashley Feeney, Assistant Planner, 808-1941

Department: Development Services Department

Division: Planning

Organization: 4827

Summary:

The Fall 2005 Planning Academy began on October 17 of this year and concluded on November 21st and is the sixth class since 2002. Twenty-seven participants completed the class.

Committee/Commission Action: None is required for this report.

Background Information:

In 2002, the City Council directed Planning staff to implement a Planning Academy as a

part of the City's Smart Growth Implementation Strategy. The first classes took place in 2002 and 2003.

In 2003 the American Planning Association's Sacramento Valley Section awarded the Planning Academy its Leadership and Service Education Program award. The APA recognized the Academy as a unique example of a responsive local government seeking a dialog with its citizens. The Academy continues to be a success.

The Academy's purpose is to encourage citizens and other stakeholders to participate in the planning process and the City's smart growth initiatives by providing them with information that will make them more effective community advocates.

Participants: Twenty-seven students participated in this class, representing a variety of public and private interests, ages, and occupations. A roster of the participants is provided on pages 5-6 (Attachment A).

Class Overview: One hundred and seven people applied to the Fall 2005 Planning Academy. The Academy's Advisory Committee selected twenty-eight applicants with the goal of selecting those most likely to participate in the planning process. The balance of representation of all council districts, age, gender, and occupation, including public and private sector employees, was also considered.

The Fall 2005 Planning Academy consisted of six class sessions and one field trip over a six-week period. Participants were exposed to a variety of speakers and topics. The first class provided a general overview of city and regional planning, and how it is and has been practiced in the Sacramento area. The course syllabus is attached on pages 7-15 (Attachment B). The following topics were covered in later classes:

- Local government planning and implementation
- The MATRIX, Development Services goals, values, and mission
- Regional planning efforts, including SACOG Blueprint
- The role of the General Plan and the General Plan Update
- Community Plans
- New growth areas
- Transit oriented development
- CEQA compliance
- The public participation process
- Ecological building
- Downtown revitalization projects, economic development
- The land use and transportation connection
- Land use planning for livability and sustainability
- Current City sustainability practices
- How the General Plan Update can address our future transit needs
- How the General Plan Update can address sustainability
- How citizens can take part in the planning process and General Plan Update

- Planning and smart growth principles and practices
- The costs, benefits, and impacts of smart growth versus sprawl
- Effective participation in the planning process and, in turn, inspiring and training other community members.

Academy speakers have included individuals from the private sector and public officials, including architects and developers as well as representatives from the following agencies:

- City Development Services Department
- City Economic Development Department
- Capitol Area Development Authority (CADA)
- Local Government Commission (LGC)
- Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG)

Academy participants are given the opportunity to evaluate the speakers and the class. This feedback is used to improve the course. Guest speakers have also provided useful suggestions for improving the Planning Academy process.

Previous Academy graduates have proven eager to participate in the City's General Plan Update or to serve their community on Project Area Committees (PACS), Redevelopment Action Committees (RACS), commissions, or even on City Council. Fall 2005 academy graduates are encouraged to participate in the City's General Plan Update or participate in community planning in other ways.

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.

Financial Considerations:

This report has no fiscal implications. The 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 by and budgeted in the Department's operating budget.

Environmental Considerations:

The City Planning Academy is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Policy Considerations:

On December 4, 2001, the City Council adopted Smart Growth Principles into the General Plan and directed staff to create a smart growth implementation strategy, which would

include the Planning Academy. The Planning Academy has provided information about the benefits of Smart Growth and how to more effectively participate in future planning efforts. The Academy furthers 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.

ESBD Considerations:

No goods or services are being purchased under this report.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Carol Shearly
Planning Director, Planning Division

Recommendation Approved:

For 

ROBERT P. THOMAS
City Manager

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Attachment A

Fall 2005 Planning Academy Participants by Council District

Council District	Name	Affiliation
1	Chris Givens	Platinum West Development
1	Trudy Robles	Cal HFA, State of California
1	Sandra Y. Walker	Natomas Community Association, Board Member; Regency Park Neighborhood Association
2	Walter Kamamoto	Del Paso Heights Redevelopment Advisory Committee, Chair; Council of Asian Pacific Islanders Together for Advocacy and Leadership
2	Barbara A. Sutton	Robla Community Association; Kings Meadow Neighborhood SEIU Union Steward
3	Nancy Bui	Emergency Food and Shelter Program; Sacramento Vietnamese Student Association Union
3	Margarita H. Colmenares	Alkali Flat - Mansion Flat Historic Neighborhood Association
3	Chris Little	East Sacramento Improvement Association; East Sacramento Chamber of Commerce; Rotary Club of Point West
4	Terry Lev	Southside Park Neighborhood Association; CK McClatchy High School Actors Guild
4	Glenda Marsh	Peace in the Precincts; People United for a Better Sacramento
4	Eric Poerio	Plan Review Process for the Police Department
5	Teri H. Duarte	Hollywood Park Neighborhood Association; WALKS Sacramento; Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates; Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (Long-time Former Member)
5	Chris Ganson	Sacramento City/County Bicycle Advisory Committee; Oak Park Redevelopment Advisory Committee; Oak Park Neighborhood Association, Co-chair; Neighbors Building Village
5	Larry Johnson	Transportation and Air Quality Collaborative – Sacramento County; Tahoe Park Neighborhood Association, Board of Directors
6	Maria Alvavez	Power Inn BTA; Sacramento Local Conservation Corp; Weed and Seed; Stockton Blvd. Partnership Association
6	Dawn Dunlap	Health Education Council; Hunger Commission

		Sacramento Obesity Prevention Coalition Healthy Eating Active Living Collaborative
6	Brian McFadden	Tahoe Park Neighborhood Association, Board Member; California Redevelopment Association; Granite Bay Municipal Advisory Committee
6	Raj K. Narayan	Southeast Area Neighborhood Association; Redevelopment Action Committee
6	Lawren Robinson	Colonial Manor Neighborhood Association, President; Neighborhood Watch, Block Captain
6	Chris Seward	Elmhurst Neighborhood Association, President; Sacramento Opera Guild, President; Sacramento Opera Association, Board of Directors
6	Constance Slider	Avondale Action Committee, Vice Chair
7	Scott Peifer	Sacramento Area Emergency Housing Center, Board Member; Alliance of Catholic Health Care, Employee
8	Charlotte Coron	Meadowview Development Committee
8	Jesse L. Reese	Meadowview Development Committee; Meadowview Neighborhood Association
N/A	William Morecraft, Jr.	Blue Diamond Growers
N/A	Debb Newton	City Traffic Engineering
N/A	Deanna Vestal	Multi Family Matters; Toastmasters; Target Experience; Meadowview Community Action

ATTACHMENT B

**FALL 2005 PLANNING ACADEMY
COURSE SYLLABI**

Class 1: Welcome, Planning Academy Objectives, and Overview of Planning

Date: Monday, October 17, 5:30-8:30pm
Location: New City Hall, 915 I Street, 5th Floor, Conf. Rm. 5110, (Alternate, 3rd Floor, Conf. Rm. CH3114)
Theme: Overview of the Planning Processes

Meeting Coordinator - Ashley Feeney (916) 808-1941,
afeeney@cityofsacramento.org

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

Speaker – Ray Kerridge, Assistant City Manager, Development Services
Director: Welcome

Speaker – Bill Thomas, Development Services Operations Manager:

- Development Services Department: Vision, Goals, Values and Mission
- Services Overview
- MATRIX

Speaker – Steve Peterson, Principal Planner, Long Range Planning

- Local Government planning and implementation
- Regional planning efforts
- General Plan Update
- Community Plan Areas
- New Growth Areas
- Transit Oriented Development
- CEQA compliance
- Public participation process

Handouts: *Citizen's Guide to Planning*
CEQA: The California Environmental Quality Act

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

Saturday General Plan Tour (Optional)

Date: Oct 22, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Tour Leader: Jim McDonald AICP, Senior Planner

Class 2: What is the General Plan and why are we updating it?

Date: Monday, October 24, 5:30-8:30pm

Location: Boys and Girls Club, 1117 G Street

Theme: Overview of the General Plan and the update process, and opportunities for involvement.

Meeting Coordinator – Helen Selph (916) 808-7852,
Hselph@cityofsacramento.org

- Overview & Context

Speaker – Kacey Lizon, SACOG Blueprint Implementation Coordinator
A Blueprint for the Region

Speaker – Desmond Parrington, The General Plan update

- The role of the General Plan: how it regulates development
- Required General Plan elements
- Additional General Plan elements unique to Sacramento: economic development, historic preservation, and community design
- Making the General Plan work
- The update process
- A blueprint for the City of Sacramento

Speaker – Remi Mendoza, Assistant Planner - General Plan Exercises:

- Live and work exercise
- Issues Exercise
- What makes a great neighborhood?
- What will make Sacramento the most livable city in America?
- Comparison with Town Hall Forum Results

*Readings: Sacramento General Plan Update Q&A
Sacramento General Plan Update Snapshot
Sacramento General Plan Update Vision and Guiding Principles
Special Report: SACOG Preferred Blueprint Alternative
Real Towns: Making Your Neighborhood Work*

Class 3: What is Smart Growth and how will it be reflected in the updated General Plan?

Date: Wednesday, November 2, 5:30-8:30pm
Location: Boys and Girls Club, 1117 G Street
Theme: What is Smart Growth? What does it look like? How can it help Sacramento become a more livable city?

Meeting Coordinator: Helen Selph (916) 808-7852,
Hselph@cityofsacramento.org

- Overview & Context
- What is Smart Growth and how does it relate to Sacramento?

Speaker – David Mogavero AIA, Mogavero, Notestine Associates;
Ecological Building (with new examples of mixed-use projects)

Speaker – Wendy Saunders, City of Sacramento Economic Development
Director: Downtown Revitalization Projects

Speaker – Jim McDonald AICP, Senior Planner
Form-Based Codes

*Readings: The Ahwahnee Principles
City of Sacramento Smart Growth Implementation Strategy
Shining Places: Sacramento and National Examples of Smart Growth
Better Ways to Grow
Myths & Facts about Affordable and High Density Housing
Sacramento's Older, Successful Neighborhoods: Can We Recreate Them?
Pedestrian Pockets – New Strategies for Suburban Growth
California's First "Pedestrian Pocket" – Creating An Old Fashioned New Community*

Class 4: Getting around in Sacramento: the land use and transportation connection

Date: Monday, November 7, 5:30-8:30pm
Location: New City Hall, 915 I Street, 5th Floor, Conf. Rm. 5110, (Alternate, 3rd Floor, Conf. Rm. CH3114)
Theme: Developer and City perspectives on the transportation-land use connection: Is it possible to accommodate future growth without gridlock?

Meeting Coordinator – Ashley Feeney (916) 808-1941,
afeeney@cityofsacramento.org

- Overview & Context

Speaker – Mike Wiley, Assistant General Manger, & Taiwo Jaiyeoba, Director of Planning, Sacramento Regional Transit District - Getting Around Sacramento, The Public Transit Connection

Speaker – Todd Leon, R Street Development Manager, Capitol Area Development Authority (CADA); R Street and Transit Oriented Development

Speakers – Jim McDonald AICP, Senior Planner
How the General Plan Update can address our future transportation needs; transit-oriented development.

- Transit for Livable Communities/ Transit Oriented Development
- Case study: 65th Street light rail station. Case study: Florin and Meadowview station.

Readings: *Calming the Community – Traffic Calming in Downtown Sacramento*
Which Comes First, the Neighborhood or the Walking?
Fighting Pollution, Not Each Other

Class 5: Why does land use planning matter?

Date: Monday, November 14, 5:30 – 8:30

Location: New City Hall, 915 I Street, 5th Floor, Conf. Rm. 5110, (Alternate, 3rd Floor, Conf. Rm. CH3114)

Theme: How Can We Have a More Sustainable, Livable City?

Meeting Coordinator: Ashley Feeney (916) 808-1941,
Afeeney@cityofsacramento.org

- Overview/Context

Speaker – Gary Stonehouse, City of Sacramento Planning Director (retired) - How Will the General Plan Update Address Sustainability?

- How will sustainability be defined in the new General Plan?
- How can the City take a leadership role? How can sustainability / livability be measured?

Speaker – Paul Zykofsky - Local Government Commission, Land-use Planning for Sustainability and Livability

- What is livability and sustainability from a land use planning perspective?
- What are the issues related to sustainability and livability?
- What are the vision and guiding principles for planning our neighborhoods, our City, our region?

Speaker – Jim McDonald AICP, Senior Planner – Current City Sustainable Design Practices

- Recycling program
- Energy efficient buildings
- Alternative fuels
- Reducing the impacts of parking lots (shading, detention of run-off)
- How does the current General Plan address livability and sustainability?

Readings: R Street Corridor Revitalization Plan

Exercise: Check out your ecological footprint at www.myfootprint.org

Class 6: What does the future hold for Sacramento?

DATE: Monday, November 21, 5:30-8:30pm
Location: New City Hall, 915 I Street, 5th Floor, Conf. Rm. 5110, (Alternate, 3rd Floor, Conf. Rm. CH3114)
Theme: Panel discussion of the City's future from a variety of perspectives

Meeting Coordinator – Helen Selph (916) 808-7852,
Hselph@cityofsacramento.org

- Overview & Context

Opening Remarks: Mayor Heather Fargo and Brooks Truitt, Community Activist

Panel Discussion: Perspectives on the importance of citizen involvement in community planning and participation in the planning process.

Panelists:

- Red Banes, Planning Commissioner
- Bruce Starkweather AIA, Developer (GPAC and DOC)
- Ryan Fong, Developer/Consultant
- Mel Billingsley, Community Activist, Planning Academy Graduate (GPAC, 65th St. RAC, PA Grad.)
- Gary Little, Neighborhood Services Manager

Red Banes & Gary Little – Closing Remarks on continued involvement

Class Assignment: Come to class prepared with one question to ask panelists

Graduation Night: Council Presentation

Date: 11/29/05
Location: 915 I Street, 1st Floor
Reception: 6:00 – 6:45, Closed Session Room
Presentation: 7:00pm, Council Chambers