

**City of Pinole General
Plan Update
Steering Committee**

Memo

To: General Plan Update Steering Committee;

CC: Elizabeth Dunn, AICP, City Planner

From: Christina Ratcliffe, AICP, PMC General Plan Update Manager

Date: August 3, 2007

Re: Public Workshop Progress Report for the Pinole General Plan Update Program

BACKGROUND

This is the second update to the Steering Committee on the second public workshop for the General Plan Update.

The second public workshop was held on June 28, 2007 to obtain public input on the summary of ideas for the Draft Community Character Element and to discuss two other elements: the Natural Resources and Open Space Element; Health and Safety Element.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report (and subsequent check-in reports) is to:

- Provide a status report on this project
- Confirm that Staff and Steering Committee are headed in the right direction in terms of process, tasks, products and schedule.

DISCUSSION

In addition to the General Plan Update website, Two Email blasts were sent to 70 recipients promoting the workshop. The email blasts also included the links to the online survey on Natural Resources & Open Space and Health & safety. The online survey solicited feedback from residents that will be helpful in the determination and future planning, conservation, preservation and improvement of Pinole's Open Space Network. The Open Space Network includes Parks, Trails, Natural Areas, Paths and other Recreational Facilities. The survey also gathered information on Air Quality, Water Quality and Health and Safety for the City of Pinole. Printed surveys were also handed out to the 20 Workshop

participants to get their input. 18 people completed the surveys at the workshop and 70 people completed the survey online.

Participants were welcomed and asked to sign in with their name, contact information and whether they would like to be informed about future General Plan Updates. The second workshop also had participants from the Pinole Youth Commission.

PINOLE PUBLIC WORKSHOP METHODOLOGY

The workshop process was based on the Technology of Participation® (TOP) methodology where individual contributions bring out larger, informative patterns. The TOP methodology encourages, enables participants to work together, and builds on participant commitment thereby ensuring effective action.

By asking questions that are designed to bring out certain responses, the participants are made to have an **Objective, Reflective, Interpretive and Decisional (ORID)** approach.

Participant responses were collected on cards and posted on Sticky Wall Fabric where they were repositioned based on participant consensus.

PINOLE PUBLIC WORKSHOP PROCESS

Ground Rules were posted to enable effective participation and to ensure that every voice is heard. A brief update on the first workshop, focusing on the Community Character Element was given. The workshop was held as two separate sessions.

The first session was a focused conversation to review the Summary of Ideas from the Draft Community Character Element. The second session was a participatory discussion focusing on two new elements: Health and Safety; Natural Resources and Open Space.

FIRST SESSION – DRAFT COMMUNITY CHARACTER ELEMENT REVIEW

Participants were asked to read aloud from the summary of Goals and suggested Policy items that were put up on easels. After all the goals and policies were read, participants were asked to identify

- 1) **Phrases that stand out** and
- 2) **Phrases that were missing.**

The purpose of this process was to gather input from participants on the Strengths, Weakness, Benefits and Dangers of the goals and policies. This process also enabled facilitators and staff to get an understanding of what the Community means to the residents and whether community input from the first workshop was fully captured in the Draft Community Character Element.

Public input received for the Community Character Element is listed by Goal and suggested Policy Items in Attachment A.

SECOND SESSION– DISCUSS TWO ELEMENTS

Participants were asked to note down their responses on cards for the following questions on Natural Resources & Open Space and Health & Safety:

- 1) How do we use our Parks & Trails?**
- 2) How do we take responsibility for our Natural Resources and Open Spaces?**
- 3) What makes a healthy community?**
- 4) How accessible is healthcare in Pinole?**
- 5) What makes you feel safe?**

Participant responses were posted on sticky walls and Clusters were developed based on pairs that clearly go together. The clusters were given a 3-5 word name or title that answers the workshop questions. Based on the theme, a qualitative indication or consensus of what the community feels about important topics like Open Space Preservation, Community Health & Safety was developed.

As anticipated, the comments represented a wide-ranging spectrum of opinions. The comments received have been organized based on their clusters or ‘themes’ in Attachment B.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Based on the comments, conserving and maintaining open space and natural resources, improving connection between uses, preserving the small town character of Pinole, ensuring high quality urban design and promoting diverse uses were some of the themes that stood out to the workshop participants.

Majority of the residents also felt that Pinole is a safe place to live due to close-knit neighborhoods, increase in police and accessibility to emergency services esp. Fire and Police. Healthcare received a low rating with Emergency Medical Services completely nonexistent from a greater part of workshop participants. They felt that healthcare is not accessible in Pinole and that the quality of health care depends on the insurance coverage.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Pinole Public Workshop – Community Character Element – Goals and Policy Items - Participant Responses**
- B. Pinole General Plan Public Workshop – Participant Responses for**
 - a. Natural Resources & Open Space Element**
 - b. Health & Safety Element**