



CITY OF UNION CITY
MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2014, 7:00 P.M.
IN THE CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM OF CITY HALL
34009 ALVARADO-NILES BLVD., UNION CITY, CALIFORNIA

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS: Carol Dutra-Vernaci (Mayor); Lorrin Ellis (Vice Mayor); Emily Duncan (City Councilmember); Pat Gacoscos (City Councilmember); Jim Navarro (City Councilmember)

Staff: Joan Malloy (Economic and Community Development Director); Carmela Campbell (Planning Manager); Larry Mintier (Mintier Harnish Principal); Ted Holzem (Mintier Harnish Sr. Project Manager)

City Manager Report 7.C Discussion of General Plan Update – City Issues, Assets, Opportunities, and Vision



Attachment 1

Status Report on the General Plan Update

Ted Holzem, Mintier Harnish Project Manager, provided an update on the General Plan Update process and schedule. Mr. Holzem reviewed meetings conducted to date, including the All-Hands Kickoff Meeting (July 7, 2014), Community Workshop #1 (September 20th, 2014), GPAC Meeting #2 (October 15, 2014), Planning Commission Study Session (October 15, 2014) and completed project milestones, including: publication of www.uc2040.com, the online townhall forum, Community Workshop #1 Summary, and GPAC Meeting #2 Minutes. Mr. Holzem also discussed current efforts, including: preparation of the draft Background Report and gathering additional community input on assets, issues, opportunities, and a community vision through the online townhall forum. Finally, Mr. Holzem highlighted next steps in the process, including: confirming the draft vision; preparing a summary report and newsletter on issues, opportunities, and assets; publishing the draft background report; and meeting with the City Council.

City Council Summary

The City Council was generally in agreement with much of the community input provided during Community Workshop #1, through the Online Townhall Forum, and at the GPAC Meeting and Planning Commission Study Session. Council members provided additional input related to the Assets, Issues, and Opportunities that should be addressed or considered during the General Plan Update. Due to the late hour, the Council decided to continue the discussion about the Vision to another date.

Assets

- Union City's location near and access to Silicon Valley, BART, and Airports are key to becoming a thriving tech center.

Issues

- Regarding parking for seniors at the Intermodal Station, which seniors was the commenter talking about? Those with disabilities? Staff: problem being addressed through the construction of the Station Way linking the station to Decoto Road.
- Need to get Union City up to standards for parks. Need to add restrooms at parks (e.g., Dry Creek Park) for the convenience of neighborhood park users. Many residents use the parks in other neighborhoods because the parks in their neighborhoods don't have restrooms. Should also think about using Turk Island for recreation.
- A priority needs to be maximizing revenue so the City can provide services and amenities. Union City needs a new, bigger library.
- What are our objectives/measures for economic development? Jobs? Tax Revenues? We need to know our priorities in order to develop economic development policies. Confirm that the Consultants will be meeting with EDAT. Staff: Yes. The EDAT will be meeting on the General Plan Update during the next phase.
- Union City has limited land for development of commercial uses, not just housing.



- Union City has underperforming warehouses. How can these be reused for better uses. Does our current plan allow/provide for the next generation of uses?

Public Comments:

- Elizabeth Aims: The General Plan Update should discuss what the community wants on the flat land of the Hillside Area. Need to focus on quality of life issues (e.g., recreation) to attract young workers.
- Barry Ferrier: The General Plan Update needs staff input into issues and ideas. Would like to see more evidence of staff input (e.g., Fire dept, Parks needs).