

**MINUTES OF THE FOWLER CITY COUNCIL
AND FOWLER PLANNING COMMISSION
SPECIAL JOINT WORKSHOP
AUGUST 18, 2020**

Mayor Cardenas called the meeting to order at 6:00 p. m. Roll call was taken. There were no public presentations.

Councilmembers present: Cardenas, Hammer, Kazarian, Parra, Rodriquez
Councilmembers absent: None

Commissioners present: Fernandez, Kandarian, Mukai
Commissioners absent: Mellon, Mejia

City staff present: City Manager Davis, City Attorney Cross, Police Chief Alcaraz, City Planner Marple, Deputy City Clerk Burrola,

GENERAL PLAN UPDATE WORKSHOP

City Planner Marple and Sara Allinder, Senior Planner from Provost & Pritchard provided a PowerPoint presentation on the General Plan Update via Microsoft Teams and via teleconference. The workshop is to provide information to the Council and Commission of the purpose and objectives, and roles of the Planning Commission and City Council and get the public to participate in the workshop as well. The City and consultants have reviewed policies in the General Plan for consistency with the community vision, supporting principles, recent legislative updates, and current community conditions. The results of this review along with an overview of new legislative requirements were presented. The City of Fowler adopted its first General Plan in 1976. The current plan, adopted in June 2004, runs through 2025 and includes land use, circulation, housing, and economic development. Since its adoption, the General Plan has been revised and amended but not comprehensively updated. Ms. Allinder provided information on the General Plan Policy Audit Report. This report is a key step towards updating the Fowler General Plan. Renee Emersion, Planner with Provost & Pritchard spoke on the recent legislative updates, Senate Bill 379. SB 379 was passed in October 2015 in reaction to increasing evidence that global climate change will have lasting impacts on the health and well-being of communities around the world. Jurisdictions must incorporate climate adaptation into their safety element once a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) is adopted on or after January 1, 2017, or, if they do not have an adopted LHMP, the safety element must be undated before January 1, 2022. These updates must include goals, polices, and objectives to address climate resilience in response to likely climate change vulnerabilities. Morgan Wright, Planner with Provost & Pritchard provided a PowerPoint presentation on Environmental Justice which was mandated by Senate Bill 1000, also known as the Planning for Healthy Communities Act and was signed into law on September 24, 2016. The purpose of this law is to create healthier cities and counties by protecting sensitive land uses and prioritizing the needs of disadvantaged communities. Low-income communities and communities of color often bear a disproportionate burden of pollution and associated health risks. Environmental justice seeks to correct this inequity by reducing the pollution experienced by these communities and ensuring their input is considered in decisions that affect them.

"Environmental justice" is defined in California law as the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Mayor Cardenas opened the discussion for public comments

Susie Rico-Vasquez, Fowler resident, asked if the City is planning on having any water parks in the future. She addressed the west side of the City not having low income housing, no bus stops or carpooling facilities for those who are interested in carpooling.

Ms. Allinder said they are currently in the phase of updating the general plan, which includes the text and land use alternatives. She said in September 2020 they intend to have an open house (outdoors) workshop to invite the public on their feedback, and then bring it back to the Council in November 2020 to provide information and compare alternatives. Following that, it will be expected that next year sometime in February 2021 to initiate the environmental review process.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Rodriguez made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Parra. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.