

PARTICIPATE PASADENA

September 2017 Meeting Notes and Commentary

I. Major Development/Specific Plans

Key comments:

- **Less development with more attention to good design**
- **Determination of the city's position on development and how citizens and Pasadena Heritage can influence the city**
- **Major development is often out of scale with surroundings and architecturally out of character**
- **Education needed as to how specific plans are created and how they can be used to buffer residential neighborhoods from large scale development**

A. Post-It Note Comments

1. Can Specific plans lower development caps?
2. Less development; more attention to good design
3. Specific plans, when are they happening?
4. Changing specific plans to accommodate developers
5. Over development; density; loss of open space
6. Communication – developers make deals. Neighbors learn of deals after they are done and there is no recourse.
7. Make certain new housing includes livable spaces for low income families
8. Developments are too close to freeways
9. Developments are too dense
10. What is the city's position on over development and how does Pasadena Heritage influence the city with respect to these policies?
11. Too much new development in Pasadena causing heavy traffic
12. My concerns as a disaster recovery manager: • water scarcity/fragility in light of all the new development. Infrastructure support in general. Is it being addressed?
13. Major development is often out of scale with surroundings and architecturally out of character with Pasadena. We need a higher standard of design.
14. Would like to learn how specific plans can be used to buffer the residential neighborhoods while still allowing for development
15. Could there be a requirement that the Council will vote on all developments of 75 units and higher?

16. We need dense, but well-designed housing near transit and retail
17. Too much development puts strain on water resources. Resulting traffic hampers emergency response. Put a limit on growth before it is too late.

B. Meeting Comments Group I

Key Comments: density – density bonuses and impact; better community outreach and public process; concern over East Pasadena, including Panda Inn and Avon properties; input at commission meetings: there is a feeling that public input is being ignored; importance of design considerations.

1. More Information on Parson's project
 - a. Parking? Density bonuses?
 - b. Mass transit
 - c. Fair Oaks retail w/ link to Northwest.
2. Thatcher – parking
 - a. Issues: Transportation, historic building adjacent, narrow streets
 - b. Community outreach, public process
3. East Pasadena: Panda Inn, Avon
4. New development and open space
 - a. Residential Impact Fees
 - b. Inclusionary Zoning
5. Hill/Colorado Hotel + historic bldg.
6. Los Robles/Cordova – Del Mar
 - a. Design considerations
7. Input @ Commissions
 - a. Design Commission packet should be put online!
8. Balance demand; don't turn people away
9. SP deviation
 - a. Public input being ignored
 - b. Too many exceptions
10. Participation can influence design
11. Alexandria approval despite All Saints' difficulty
12. Summary:
 - a. New projects: info, pkg. traps, open space, historic bldg, design
 - b. Public participation and communication

- c. Balancing supply/demand
- d. SP/UP respecting its vision

C. Meeting Comments Group 2

Key comments include: better outreach to all members of the community (churches, parks); concern over high density and concentration; housing not affordable; more transparent process.

1. Determination as to how many units built in 2016 and 2017 and how many units are in process in the City.
2. Outreach to include all members of community
 - a. Churches, parks
3. Developer affordable housing \$/in lieu fee
 - a. How many units built?
 - b. How many units occupied?
4. Downzone retail due to changes in economy/buying behavior
Create affordable housing sites.
5. High density and concentration
6. Not affordable
7. Parsons housing? Not publicized
8. GP process and state override
 - a. Applying new regulations
9. ADU and short term rental risk
 - a. GP overlay to put in neighborhood density
10. More transparent process
 - a. Proprietary plans
11. Thatcher – why redevelop? Why is there vacant space on Colorado?
12. Vision abandoned due to fiscal constraints
 - a. Return to Planning Principles
13. Affordable housing occupancy
14. We need to examine foreign cash investment without just approving such investment.
15. Three developments that are not in line with good development: Crown City Medical, Lincoln/Parsons and Hyatt Place.

II. Parks, Trees, Open Space, Arroyo

Key Comments:

- The need for more native trees and plants
- Preserving open space
- Who is responsible for maintaining street trees and how residents can request that trees be planted in their neighborhood?
- The importance of preservation of the Arroyo Seco natural environment and wilderness areas

A. Post-It Notes

1. Street trees are on city property. Homeowners should not be allowed to request “no tree”. Trees give shade against global warming and urban heat island effect and add to neighborhood feeling.
2. We need more native street trees. We should stop planting invasive exotic trees like Chinese elms and we should not plant magnolia trees as they require too much water.
3. Invest in trees and park space. The more trees we have, the more oxygen and cooling.
4. Smart Growth
5. Preserve the Arroyo Seco Wilderness should be a priority. There should be no businesses in the Arroyo!! The concrete channel should be removed and the Arroyo Seco should be a dedicated wildlife corridor.
6. More Parks and open space! What happened to the Parks Department promise to buy neighborhood lots and build a park where a home was once located?
7. Who maintains street trees and how can we get trees planted on our block?
8. No Big Dig!
9. Fitness equipment in ALL or most parks!

B. Comment Cards Summary

1. More native plants — no more magnolias (H2O conservation)
2. Preserve Arroyo Seco (protect wildlife, no businesses)
3. Keep Arroyo Natural

C. Meeting Comments

Key comments: stronger police presence needed in parks; better maintenance of park facilities; too much development and loss of open space.

1. Disconnect b/w main street and Arroyo
 - a. Defenders Parkway
 - b. Connect Colorado and OG Blvd to Arroyo Seco
2. Concern over homeless presence in parks and cleanliness
 - a. Stronger police presence in parks.
 - b. Better Maintenance of park facilities
3. The community is urged to attend Arroyo One Meeting
4. Concern w/ over development and loss of open spaces
 - a. New Developments should be required to have more open space
5. Can we create temporary open spaces (convert vacant properties to landscaped lots) perhaps by providing incentives to the landowners.
6. Drought has led to dead trees in Pasadena Neighborhoods
 - a. We need a plan to address dead trees in our neighborhoods.
7. Pedestrian and bike friendly routes/access to city parks
 - a. More bike racks and crosswalks
8. Development should focus on affordable housing (not just high end)
9. Pasadena Heritage should focus more attention on open spaces and old growth trees
10. Developers should contribute to more parkland.
11. Parklets
12. Add native plants to parkways
13. Make parks more accessible to elderly and disabled
14. Sidewalk cracks need to be repaired.
15. New trees need to be maintained
16. More transparency needed in regards to our urban forestry
17. Litter on our streets and in our parks
18. Kidspace Museum wants to educate children on issues discussed (Arroyo, recycling, etc.)
19. Pasadena App — send in photos of trash, etc. for city to address
20. Need to maintain city parks and add fitness activities/equipment
21. East Pasadena residents/business owners feel that their area of the city is neglected
22. Add portable bathrooms in areas with large homeless population.
23. Preserve open space across from City Hall

24. Not enough funding to preserve Arroyo (there should be reallocation of funds from special events held in Arroyo)
25. Reevaluate city list of protected trees
 - a. Remove inappropriate tree species (ex. Invasive, not drought tolerant)
 - b. Preserve native plants.

III. Transportation

Key Comments:

- **Too much traffic due to new development**
- **Make our roads safe for users and make it safe for kids to walk to school we**
- **Need to plan for a changing future including ride share, electric and self-driving cars; bikes lanes and co-existence between bikes and cars**
- **The importance of creating housing near transportation.**

A. Post-it Comments

1. Bikes, Increased traffic, pedestrians, safety and education for all of these items
2. Bus system not adequate, often late; international students buy cars instead of trying to rent places near a bus line.
3. Too much traffic due to new development with additional population
4. Protected bike lanes and road diets
5. Make our roads safe for users from 8-80. Make it safe for kids to walk to school.
6. Plan for a changing future: ride share, electric, self-driving
7. Need Improved lighting and sanitation at Gold Line Stations, esp. Allen Station
8. Need Parking at Lake Avenue Metro Station
9. Bicycle safety for all ages! Children should learn in school!

B. Meeting Comments

Key Comments: Encourage use of different modes of transportation including metro, bike, walking and cars; more subterranean parking for developments; walkability should be a priority in our neighborhoods; speed is a big issue with respect to road safety; there should be advance notice of proposed changes to give folks the chance to make their views heard.

- I. Safe and Education – Bikes *
 - a. Sharing the streets
 - b. Safety: how to ride safely, biker awareness, education for bike rentals, Education as to who is in charge of this program?
 - c. Safety Training: kids and adults, who should run these programs.
 - d. Road space: residential and commercial

- e. Bike lanes: how cars and bikes should co-exist and interact with one another. Impact of separate lanes for cars and bikes.
 - f. Competing with cars; separate lanes?
 - g. Need infrastructure
2. General Traffic
- a. 210 Freeway Congestion
 - b. Too many people using the roads.
 - c. Reduce traffic, slow growth
 - d. Creating housing near development; better planning (impact, process and height limitations)
 - e. Parks: El Molino
 - f. Different modes of transportation: metro, bike, walking, cars
 - g. Arts Bus
 - h. Hill & Colorado
3. Parking
- a. subterranean
 - b. under-utilized lots
 - c. mobility issue
 - d. more in each development
4. Pedestrians
- a. link neighborhoods
 - b. pandering to the automobile
 - c. crosswalks and diagonal
 - d. speed bumps — split vote
 - e. calming streets
 - f. walkability
5. Noise poll
- a. Increased stop signs to slow traffic
6. Road Safety
- a. speed
 - b. calming measures
 - c. signals
7. TAC – Transportation Advisory Comm.

8. Lighting
9. Sanitation
10. Public Awareness
 - a. advanced notice of changes
 - b. Slow implementation
 - cycle track
 - ex: Union
11. Traffic Studies related to Development

IV. Other Topics Key Comment:

- How do we include the underserved population of Pasadena in discussions like this one?
- Disaster preparedness information in needed city-wide

A. Post-It Notes

1. Colorado St. Bridge Plan for suicide prevention.

B. Meeting Comments

1. How do we include the underserved population in discussions like this?
2. Underground utility wires
3. What sort of disaster preparedness exists at regional, city, and local levels?
 - a. Consider special needs – nursing homes, persons with special needs, homeless, the very young, and the elderly.
 - b. Is the city working with local schools, hotels and other entities that could potentially provide services and shelter in emergencies?