



TOWN OF LOS GATOS
GENERAL PLAN UPDATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REPORT

MEETING DATE: 6/18/2020
ITEM: 2
DESK ITEM

DATE: June 18, 2020

TO: General Plan Update Advisory Committee

FROM: Joel Paulson, Community Development Director

SUBJECT: Review and Discussion of the Initial Draft of the Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element.

REMARKS:

The Los Gatos Community Health and Senior Services Commission has authorized their chair, George Rossmann to speak on its behalf at this meeting. Attachment 3 contains the remarks he plans to make during the public comment period for this item.

In addition to these comments, staff has received verbal inquiries as to whether this General Plan element is the right location to include policies addressing pandemic response and social equity and justice. While both of these topics are relevant to the Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element, they also warrant a larger discussion than is possible at this meeting. Staff recommends that the GPAC consider these topics at a separate meeting that will be scheduled in the near future so staff and the consultant can provide examples of possible goals, policies, and/or implementation programs to consider, and discussion of where these topics can be incorporated into other elements of the General Plan. For example, the pandemic response may also be appropriate in the Hazards and Safety Element, and the social equity and justice may rate an icon (like we have for sustainability) throughout the General Plan.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachments previously received with June 18, 2020 Staff Report:

1. Initial Draft of Public Facilities, Services, and Infrastructure Element
2. Comments from the Youth Commission

Attachment received with this Desk Item Report:

3. Comments from the Chair of the Community Health and Senior Services Commission

PREPARED BY: JENNIFER ARMER, AICP
Senior Planner

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GPAC Meeting
June 18, 2020

Good evening. My name is George Rossmann, and I am the chair of the newly named Community Health and Senior Services Commission. The name change is not simply a response to the current pandemic, but a recognition that the public health needs of the Los Gatos community are more substantial than the goals, policies, and actions that were identified in the 2020 General Plan.

Evidence of these needs is reflected in numerous ways. Assessments of community health needs have been undertaken at the county and city level throughout the nation, and out of ten essential public health services, our county prioritized Behavioral Health (Mental Health and Substance Abuse) and Chronic Disease/Healthy Eating and Active Living. Los Gatos has responded by awarding a number of multi-year community grants to organizations responsive to these needs: Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence, Counseling and Support Services for Youth, Parents Helping Parents. The town is also participating in the county's Healthy Cities Program and through it hopes to reduce the incidence of chronic disease and injury. The recently formed Los Gatos Service Providers has focused its attention on mental health awareness and showcased local providers of behavioral health services.

We see more clearly than ever that social services are a necessity. The 2040 General Plan needs to consider the strengths, assets, and resources that Los Gatos possesses at the same time as it recognizes our weaknesses and vulnerabilities. COVID – 19 has made all of us acutely aware of those. We cannot simply rely on our nearby hospitals and residential health care providers to fulfill the growing health needs of our entire community. We need to rethink the Public Health policies proposed in the draft 2040 General Plan. Our commission intends to make constructive proposals to that end.

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