

**CITY OF EL MIRAGE
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 22, 2010**

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Doug Doede called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the Pledge.

II. ROLL CALL

Members present were Doug Doede, Brandon Forrey, Mary Koestner, Bill Morrison, and Beth Simek. Staff members present were Community Development Director George Flores, Management Assistant Sharon Antes, Senior Planner Mark Smith, Economic Development Director Scott Chesney, and Technician Margarete Aranda.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – [NONE]

Bill Morrison made a motion for approval of the minutes. Beth Simek seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 to 0.

IV. CONTINUANCES [NONE]

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. Public Hearing on Proposed General Plan Update

The Chair asked George Flores to summarize the General Plan Update. He said the General plan provides a background and foundation for development and presented a summary and timeline that brought us to this hearing. He said the General Plan is a blueprint for development and people look toward it for where the City would like to go. He stated that in 2008 the City contracted with The Planning Center in Tucson to do the General Plan Update. They brought in Theatre Simple to do a “Park Bench” project at Pueblo El Mirage, Wal-Mart Supercenter, and Dysart High School students and interview over 800 citizens. October 6th through 11th they did a one-week design charrette in a storefront from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. the entire week. Every residence received a personal invitation to provide input and look at the plans in process. They invited stakeholders including representatives of Arizona Department of Transportation, the *Arizona Republic*, Arizona State University, Phoenix, Maricopa County Flood Control, Friends of the Agua Fria, Maricopa Association of Governments, and the West Valley Arts Council to meet and discuss their concerns. A Vision Statement presented at the end of the charrette reflects the focus of the Plan. There are 4 volumes including an Executive Summary (copies of which are available tonight), a Policy Plan, an Implementation Plan, and the Background and Current Conditions. The 60-day review comments from state and regional agencies and city staff comments are recorded. Two briefings were done for the Commission in

February and March and for Council in January and March. The Plan meets all state law requirements and recognizes El Mirage is a 12-square-mile community. He clarified that this was a plan for future growth and not financial development. It would depend on the ability to fund it in the future and does not commit the City to any action. It acknowledges the past but looks to the future where the City needs to go.

The Chair opened the public hearing and asked for public comments. There were no public comments, so the Chair closed the public hearing.

2. Discussion and Recommendation on the General Plan Update

Doug Doede asked for discussion or comments from the Commission. Brandon Forrey said he had read every page of the Plan and was proud of the document and wholeheartedly supported it. Mary Koestner said she echoed his comments. Beth Simek said she agreed with them and was looking to put some of the recommendations in place. Bill Morrison also agreed and said the City had to have this type of document in place. Doug Doede said it was done very professionally and that it is a good start. The City has already started implementing it, but however long it takes, our children and children's children should be proud of what we are doing.

Mary Koestner made a motion to recommend approval of the Plan to City Council. Beth Simek seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

VI. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS [NONE]

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Mark L. Smith, Senior Planner

Doug Doede, Commission Chair

George Flores, CD Director

Rick Flaaen, City