

**MINUTES
OF THE
VISION SALINAS 2040 STEERING COMMITTEE
GENERAL PLAN UPDATE
June 28, 2023**

WELCOME AND STAFF INTRODUCTIONS

PRESENT: Jose Luis Barajas, Jonathan De Anda, Natalie Flores, Vicente Lara, Devon McCauley, Omar Perez, Alexis Mendez

ABSENT: Alejandro Chavez, Dennis Donohue, Rosa Gonzalez, Xago Juarez, Robin Lee, David Mack, Jonathan Ordiano, Carissa Purnell

STAFF: Lisa Brinton (Community Development Director), Grant Leonard (Planning Manager), Monica Gurmilan (Senior Planner), Jonathan Moore (Senior Planner), Donovan Arteaga (Community Outreach Assistant)

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

MEETING OBJECTIVES

- I. Receive update on Draft Housing Element submission process.
- II. Review first Draft Economic Development, and Health and Environmental Justice goals, policies, and actions.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Monica Gurmilan called the meeting into order and took roll. She gave an update to the discussion process that will include the opportunity for public comment before each discussion item. Omar Perez called a motion to approve the meetings from the last meeting, Jose Luis Barajas seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Draft Housing Element Update

Jonathan Moore gave an update on the Draft Housing Element. He discussed comment letters the City received, City Council comments, and next steps. Devon McCauley asked if there was

targeted outreach to homeless services providers (The Coalition, MILPA). Vicente Lara commented about the City considering deferring impact fees for developers, despite recommendations from LandWatch and new studies suggesting otherwise. Jose Luis agreed with his concern. Jose Luis questioned the context of “parking” being used in Goal 1, as it is used four times in different ways.

Discussion of First Draft Goals/Policies/Actions for Economic Development, and Health and Environmental Justice Elements

Monica transitioned the discussion to the Environmental Justice (EJ) Element. She discussed the policy areas the EJ element will and must address. She opened the discussion to the Committee by going through each goal. Jose Luis asked if the City has explored ways of rehabilitating City/County owned land that is toxic. Vicente suggested that the element title include “Equity,” and for the City to define what equity means at the beginning of the element. Jose Luis suggested the City keep in mind there are other forms of pollution besides business and personal contributions. Jose Luis suggested that the LGBTQ community be kept in mind for groups to work with in HEJ-1.1.2.

Monica read over HEJ Goal 2. Jose Luis asked if HEJ-2.1.1 and HEJ-2.1.2 are referring to working with Hartnell and their childcare services. Johnathan De Anda asked how the City would facilitate Action 2.1.1. Vicente asked about the City’s role regarding the cost of childcare. Jose Luis asked if the future parks mentioned in Action 2.2.1 already have allocated City owned land. Vicente suggested the addition of philanthropy in HEJ-2.3.2 and a funding source for CBOs.

Monica transitioned the conversation to HEJ Goal 3. Jose Luis asked how the city would define “healthy” and identify “healthy businesses.” Vicente mentioned how “food deserts” are defined and suggested transportation be included into the analysis for HEJ-3.1.1. Jose Luis mentioned the California Green Business Network gives “green certifications” that allocate funds for business to increase their efficiency capacity. Vicente suggested the City looking into a “FoodRx” program. Devon suggested the libraries be used to provide workshops for residents to apply for benefits.

Monica transitioned the conversation to HEJ Goal 4. Vicente mentioned that health and equity can be included in this goal.

Monica transitioned the conversation to HEJ Goal 5. Jose Luis mentioned ways to promote physical activity with existing infrastructure. He also suggested that the City look to promote physical activity in the workplace.

Monica transitioned the conversation to EJ Goal 6. She mentioned that access is a missing component to this goal. Vicente asked if the City has done an analysis of the different committees. Devon suggested the City investigate creating a “Civic Academy” or expanding existing programs to increase understanding of how the city government works. Jose Luis suggested the City publicize vacancies in the various commissions.

Monica transitioned the conversation to HEJ Goal 7. Devon suggested the City investigate Housing Navigator funding to create a position to help homeless people reach housing. Jose Luis mentioned that HEJ 7.2.1 explicitly mention the LGBTQ community. Devon suggested working with the youth community to explicitly advertise that the City is accepting of LGBTQ individuals.

Monica suggested the conversation regarding the ED Element be pushed to a future meeting due to time restrictions. Jonathan gave a brief overview of the Economic Development (ED) Element.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is on August 23, there is no meeting in the month of July. Location for the meeting is to be determined due to City Hall construction.

FOLLOW-UP REPORTS

None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- I. Draft Goals/Policies/Actions Review
- II. Draft Existing Conditions Report
- III. Draft Land Use Buildout Projections

ADJOURNMENT

Alexis Mendez adjourned the meeting.