MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE SHAFTER GENERAL PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GPAC)
POLICE DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE ROOM, 201 CENTRAL VALLEY HWY
MEETING HELD IN-PERSON
TUESDAY, April 22, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 PM, CHAIR LYNNDA MARTIN

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: VICE-CHAIR GARY NELSON

ROLL CALL:
PRESENT(In-Person): Chair Lynnda Martin, Vice-Chair Gary Nelson, Mayor Chad Givens, Mayor Pro Tem Gustavo Olvera Jr., Commissioner John Sanchez, Marco Avendano, Elena Espinoza, Jonathan Hudson, Jed Hwang (arrived after roll call), Phillip Jimenez, Nelson Salinas, Brandon Slater, Bret Sill, Jessica Smith. Also Present: Planning Director Esselman, Senior Planner Cazares, Community Engagement Manager Zermeno, PlaceWorks Consultant Halley Grundy, PlaceWorks Consultant Steve Gunnels, PlaceWorks Consultant Scott Ashlock.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Chair Martin opened the approval of the agenda

MOVED (GIVENS) AND SECONDED (JIMENEZ). MOTION CARRIED WITH NO OPPOSITION.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: FEBRUARY 25, 2025

Chair Martin opened the approval of the minutes from February 25, 2025

MOVED (GIVENS) AND SECONDED (JIMENEZ). MOTION CARRIED WITH NO OPPOSITION.

1. PRESENTATION
City and consultant staff presented brief follow-up updates from GPAC meeting #1, First Friday Pop-up (4/4/25) summary, existing and prospective plans related to land use, mobility, and economic growth, and two "What-If" scenarios designed to facilitate discussion about tradeoffs and opportunities of various policy issues related to growth and development around the city core.

2. SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION
The GPAC broke out into 3 groups of 5 members, each facilitated by a member of the consulting team while Planning Director Esselman rotated between all groups. Each group reviewed the two potential "What-If" scenarios and discussed the tradeoffs and opportunities embodied in six questions addressing policy issues about future growth and development around the city core.

The small group discussion provided a forum for GPAC members to explore the policy issues and understand the tradeoffs and opportunities related to each.

3. TRADE OFFS AND OPPORTUNITIES ACTIVITY

The Trade Offs and Opportunities Activity asked GPAC members to vote on the six policy issues explored during small group discussions. Each member was asked to allocate six stickers (two ranked 5, two ranked 3, and two ranked 1) across the six policy issues. They were asked to place one sticker per issue, and instructed to distribute their highest-value stickers (5) to top priorities and lower values (3 and 1) to less critical issues, providing a comparative ranking, with total points per issue identifying collective priorities. The weighted voting system ensured high-priority issues received appropriate emphasis, fostering a clear, visually trackable consensus. Following the voting, PlaceWorks Consultant Halley Grundy reviewed the results with GPAC, to confirm consensus, explain outstanding questions, and give those with a dissenting opinion the opportunity to share insight into their priorities.

4. CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

Consultant staff went through the next steps for the overall General Plan Update, including upcoming outreach opportunities, development of the work product, and GPAC next steps.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dora Hernandez (La Colonia) identified herself as a member of the AB 617 advisory committee, noted that a resident of one of the disadvantaged unincorporated communities (DUCs) should serve on GPAC, noted that the option for the North Beltway shown in the current circulation element would burden DUCs due to proximity and supported options that routed traffic away from DUCs. Ms. Hernandez also described the infrastructure available in DUCs as well as the financing structure supporting such infrastructure. She further described the work her community has done to establish a new park, ongoing efforts to be included in the Shafter Recreation and Parks District, noted that DUCs have no senior services or access to community food distribution services in Shafter, and noted that medical and dental services are difficult for DUC residents to access.

Annabel Marquez (Golden Oaks) expressed concerns related to pollution and traffic along Lerdo Highway at all times of day, specifically noting that it is not good near churches and preschools. Ms. Marquez also noted that the City should consider impacts to water, sewer, and electric services as it plans to expand and expressed concerns about having to pay more taxes and fees to support such expansion.

Refugio Valencia (Bakersfield, involved in the Shafter area for 15 years), noted that the City wants to celebrate growth and improve tax revenue, but encouraged the City to place community health and pollution at the forefront of planning efforts rather than just increased revenue.

Michelle McMannis (unidentified) expressed a desire for growth that is mindful of our community and encouraged the City to grow what is good.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

MAYOR GIVENS RESPONDED TO COMMUNITY COMMENTS.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED (MARTIN) AND SECONDED (JIMENEZ) COMMISSIONERS ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 8:35 PM. MOTION CARRIED WITH NO OPPOSITION.

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Lynnda Martin, Chair

ATTEST:

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Yazmina Pallares, City Clerk