Date: March 4, 2020

Memorandum To: Patagonia Town Council

From: Patagonia Planning & Development Committee

Subject: Recommendations for minor amendments to the Town General Plan

The Patagonia Town Council directed the Planning & Development Committee to review the 2009 Town

General Plan to determine whether any amendments should be considered by the Council. The Committee has concluded its review and submits the attached document as its recommendations for amendment.

The document is in the form of a markup of the 2009 Plan, showing the changes in language recommended by the Committee. While a few of the changes are substantive, many are just to clarify meaning and simplify structure. The Committee believes that none of the amendments are Major Amendments within the meaning of the Arizona statutes governing local government general plans.

The Committee’s review was conducted during its regular monthly meetings over the past six months. These meetings were properly noticed to the public with the agenda stating we were reviewing the Town Plan. The meetings were open to the public, although few attended.

The attached recommendations were unanimously approved by Committee vote on March 3, 2020, with the exception of two matters, as follows:

1. On page 4, bottom paragraph of the markup, the Committee recommends that the Planning Area be reduced in size.

The current Planning Area comprises about 76 square miles, extending northeast of town about half way to Sonoita, southwest to Lake Patagonia and the airport, and southeast to the Patagonia Mountains and San Rafael Valley.

Some on the Committee would like to reduce the Planning Area area to be 3 miles in all directions beyond the official town limits, about 15 square miles, while others would like to retain the larger Planning area.

Those in favor of reducing the Planning Area believe that the Town government should focus on matters it can reasonably expect to influence and that the broader planning area is too far outside the scope of its influence.

Those in favor of the broader Planning Area believe the Town should be more aware of what is happening in the larger region that might affect Patagonia’s residents and resources.

Reducing the Planning Area does not in any way constrain the Town from expressing its concerns or desires with respect to matters occurring in the larger regional area, but it does tend to focus the Town’s attention to a more limited geographic area.

The question is to what extent the Town government wishes to expend time and resources in an attempt to manage or influence activities outside the Town limits. The Committee wishes to leave this consideration to the Town Council for resolution, and asks the Council to define the Planning Area.

2. On Page 19, Item 3, the 2009 Plan states “The Town prefers only limited annexation of adjacent, ‘developing’ areas.” The Committee recognizes that the Council may have other views regarding annexation and wishes direct its attention to this statement.

The Committee wishes to leave consideration of annexation to the Town Council and asks direction as to how this statement should be worded.

The Planning & Development Committee does hereby submit to the Patagonia Town Council its report on the review of the Town Plan.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patagonia Planning & Development Committee

Todd Norton, Chairman

David Budd, Vice Chairman

Gerry Isaac

Ike Isakson

Susan Lange

Georgette Larrouy

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