

**TOWN OF PATAGONIA**

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT MEETING MINUTES**

**May 23, 2023, 6:00 P.M.**

**Zoom Meeting I.D. 957-511-4862 Password 338501**

1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6PM.
2. ROLL CALL: All Committee members were present: Steve Finch, Gerry Isaac, Georgette Larrouy, Patrick O’Neal, Laurie Monti, and Nancy McCoy.
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE: The Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 2, 2023, MEETING

Motion to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2023 meeting was made by Steve Finch, seconded by Georgette Larrouy, and approved unanimously.

1. CALL TO THE PUBLIC A. R. S. §38-431-01(H): AT THIS TIME, THE PUBLIC WILL ONLY BE RECOGNIZED TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS LISTED FOR PUBLIC INPUT PURSUANT TO TOWN CODE SECTION 2-5-6. ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC IS ALLOWED TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE, SUBJECT TO A REASONABLE TIME SET BY THE COMMITTEE PURSUANT TO THE ARIZONA OPEN MEETING LAW. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE CALL TO THE PUBLIC, INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE MAY RESPOND TO CRITICISM MADE BY THOSE WHO HAVE ADDRESSED THE COMMITTEE, MAY ASK STAFF TO REVIEW THE MATTER, OR MAY ASK THE MATTER BE PLACED ON A FUTURE AGENDA. HOWEVER, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE SHALL NOT DISCUSS OR TAKE LEGAL ACTION ON MATTERS RAISED DURING AN OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC UNLESS THE MATTERS ARE PROPERLY NOTICED FOR DISCUSSION AND LEGAL ACTION.

There were no speakers for Call to the Public.

**OLD BUSINESS**

NONE

**PUBLIC HEARING ON TOWN PLAN**

1. THE COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE TOWN PLAN IT IS PREPARING TO RECOMMEND TO THE TOWN COUNCIL.

A motion was made by Gerry Isaac and seconded by Steve Finch to convene into a Public Hearing to review the Patagonia General Plan. The motion was passed unanimously.

Laurie Monti gave a PowerPoint presentation about the 2022 Patagonia General Plan. Using information taken directly form the General Plan, Ms Monti described what the General Plan is and what it is not. She traced its history of development from 1992 to the present, emphasizing the community participation in 2008 and the grant that resulted in the basic content and format of the current Plan. She continued with the Plan’s purpose and its review and re-adoption process. . She explained the seven Planning Assumptions and eight Planning Principles on which the Plan is based and then reviewed the three Elements of the General Plan: Land Use, Circulation, and Water and Energy Resources. She explained the seven Planning Assumptions and eight Planning Principles on which the Plan is based. Ms Monti explained in some detail the components of the Land Use Element and highlighted important points in the Circulation and Water and Energy Resources Elements. (The 2022 Patagonia General Plan can be viewed online at the Town of Patagonia website on the Planning and Development page.)

Questions and Comments:

In response to David Fain’s question concerning water monitoring, Committee member Gerry Isaac replied that the mine has monitoring agreements with area well owners, and any monitoring data for the mine required by environmental permits can be requested from the appropriate State or Federal agency. Robert Proctor described the water monitoring efforts by several local nonprofits including the Nature Conservancy, Tucson Audubon, Friends of Sonoita Creek, and the Town of Patagonia Flood and Flow Committee. Information can be found on their websites.

Gary Nabhan commented that as a Town, we need to project what we see are compatible land uses and determine the things that need to be resolved for compatibility as prevention is better than litigation. It would be helpful to have a pathway for perspective land users that is not punitive or scares people away, but identifies what the Town sees as compatible land uses. We need to share these guidelines with organizations outside of Town such as the Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area, important birding areas, the Nogales Community Economic Foundation, and the new viticultural area in Sonoita/Elgin. We need more signage to promote the area’s legacy. Non-profits need to meet with the Town and the mine to share concerns and expertise. We need to solidify resources in Town to make the General Plan work.

Mary Skye Schoolcraft said that she would like to see the implementation of the Plan go forward, and that in the future, it would include an element about affordable housing. She encouraged the Town to have an official intergovernmental agreement with the County, and expressed concerns about possible erosion at some current Town building sites.

In response to Stephanie Smith’s question about hiring a town planner, it was noted that it is not the Committee’s responsibility to hire Town staff and it is not money in the budget at this time.

Nancy McCoy concluded with remarks about the importance of community involvement in implementing the Town Plan if we want to hold onto our Town character, support sustainable business practices, and continue to live in and enjoy our scenic environment. The Planning and Development Committee formed a Working Group in 2022, and she hoped interested community members would participate with this group to move forward on implementing the Town Plan.

The 2022 Patagonia General Plan can be viewed online at the Town of Patagonia website on the Planning and Development page.

**REOPEN REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING**

Motion was made by Getty Isaac to close the Public Hearing and reconvene the regular Committee meeting, seconded by Steve Finch, and approved unanimously.

1. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON RECOMMENDATION OF THE UPDATES TO THE TOWN PLAN TO THE TOWN COUNCIL.

Motion was made by Gerry Isaac to recommend the changes to the Town Plan to the Town Council, seconded by Nancy McCoy, and passed unanimously.

1. STAFF OR MEMBER REPORTS: AT THIS TIME THE TOWN STAFF OR A COMMITTEE MEMBER MAY REPORT ON ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE COMMITTEE. SUCH ITEMS MAY NOT BE ACTED UPON BY THE COMMITTEE AT THIS TIME, BUT MAY BE SCHEDULED AS A FUTURE AGENDA ITEM.

Patrick O’Neal said that the Planning and Development Committee’s recommended changes to Chapter14 of the Town Ordinances are being reviewed by the new Town attorney. Town Manager Robinson said that the changes will be presented to the Town Council at a study session.

Laurie Monti suggested that the Planning and Development Committee have members rotate to represent the Committee on South 32’s Citizen Advisory Council. She will bring more information about this possibility to the next meeting.

1. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: AT THIS TIME THE COMMITTEE MAY BRING FORTH TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS AND SET THE DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting will be June 6th at 6 PM. The meeting will include a public hearing for a use permit to build a residential six-foot wall.

1. ADJOURN
   1. Motion to adjourn was made by Patrick O’Neal, seconded by Steve Finch, and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7 PM.