



TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

MEETING DATE: 03/22/2022

ITEM NO: 2

DATE: March 7, 2022
TO: Council Policy Committee
FROM: Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Discuss and Recommend to the Town Council Updates to the Town of Los Gatos Core Goals and Guiding Principles

RECOMMENDATION:

Discuss and recommend to the Town Council updates to the Town of Los Gatos Core Goals and Guiding Principles.

BACKGROUND:

At the Town Council Strategic Priorities meeting on January 25, 2022, the Council requested that the Council Policy Committee examine the definitions of the Town's Core Goals of Community Character, Good Governance, Fiscal Stability, Quality Public Infrastructure, Civic Enrichment, and Public Safety. This is also a good opportunity to review the descriptions of the Town's Guiding Principles of Small-Town Service, Community Stewardship, and Future Focus.

The current Core Goals and Guiding Principles are available on the Town website as part of the Commissioners' Handbook at www.losgatosca.gov/843/Commissioners-Handbook and are included as Attachments 1 and 2 to this report.

DISCUSSION:

Core Goals

Staff drafted the following potential updates to the Town's Core Goals for the Committee's consideration using language consistent with the Draft 2040 General Plan's Vision and Guiding Principles. Recommended deleted existing language is represented in ~~striketrough~~ with recommended additions in underline.

PREPARED BY: Holly Zappala
Management Analyst

Reviewed by: Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, and Town Attorney

DISCUSSION (continued):

Community Character: Preserve and enhance the ~~appearance, Town's historic resources and character charm, and environmental quality of the Community.~~ while guiding the community into the future; invigorate the economic vitality of Los Gatos business locations; foster appropriate investments to maintain and enhance diverse neighborhoods; promote ethnic, cultural, and socio-economic equity; and conserve the Town's natural beauty and environment for present and future generations.

Community Good Governance: Ensure responsive, accountable, transparent, accessible, inclusive, and collaborative government conducted in an open manner that encourages community involvement.

Fiscal Stability: Maintain ongoing ~~financial fiscal~~ stability to provide high quality and cost-effective core-municipal services that meet the needs of the community and sustain the Town's long-term fiscal well-being.

Quality Public Infrastructure: ~~Provide and maintain exceptional the condition and availability of public facilities, transportation systems~~ public facilities, infrastructure, and a well-connected transportation system that enables safe access for all transportation modes, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders of all ages and abilities. and other public infrastructure

Civic Engagement: Foster opportunities for meaningful ~~citizen-community~~ involvement in government processes; and encourage cultural, recreational, and individual enrichment; and strive to make Los Gatos a more inclusive place for all.

Public Safety: ~~Ensure public safety~~ Maintain and enhance the safety of Los Gatos through proactive community policing, effective emergency response, and community wide emergency preparedness. and preparation and planning, education, and community design that is responsive to the full range of potential natural and urban hazards and safety issues.

Guiding Principles

Potential updates to the Town's Guiding Principles for the Committee's consideration are as follows:

Small-Town Service is our commitment to providing services in a courteous, timely, ~~and~~ responsive, equitable, and accessible manner. We strive to ensure all community members feel safe, respected, and comfortable to be themselves and express all aspects of their identities. The Town promotes equal treatment, equitable distribution of and access to resources, and engagement in issues affecting the lives of residents, workers, and visitors. We know that Los Gatos is a community people want to live in because they feel a sense of

DISCUSSION (continued):

~~belonging.~~ Our small-town character is important to all who call Los Gatos home. We strive to make our customer service reflect these qualities. Small-Town Service is also about programs that celebrate the Town's small-town ~~character charm~~, such as our Library children's story times and arts workshops, the annual Spring into Green environmental and sustainability event, the 4th of July musical celebration event, Screen on the Green family-friendly movie night, annual tree lighting, Music in the Park, Forbes Mill Footbridge children's murals, and many more.

Community Stewardship means that we recognize the responsibility entrusted to Town leaders and staff to care about the well-being of the entire community and to carry out our obligations accordingly. We take our role seriously as we work to maintain fiscal stability ~~and a balanced, well-designed community with strong neighborhoods, diverse neighborhoods with housing and infrastructure to meet the needs of current and future residents,~~ outdoor recreation opportunities that promote active healthy lifestyles, environmental sustainability, art and cultural amenities, natural and historical resources, a well-connected mobility system, reliable basic and equitable municipal services, government transparency, vibrant shopping and vibrant shopping districts economic vitality, a safe environment, and other quality of life elements. We encourage a high degree of public participation and community partnerships to carry out our stewardship role.

Future Focus reminds us to always have an eye on the future as we care for the community of today. ~~Our goal is~~ We want to conserve Los Gatos' beautiful natural environment, reduce waste, and ensure a high quality of life for today's residents and present and future generations. We aim to preserve and enhance the Town's historic resources and character while guiding the community into the future. Planning for the Los Gatos of the future as needs change and opportunities arise is integral to the decision making we undertake today. Our General Plan is subject to change as ideas develop and priorities evolve. We also keep the future in focus by looking for ~~new and better ways of more efficient ways of doing business – whether it's streamlining processes or using~~ utilizing effective technologies y to deliver services more efficiently.

A clean copy of the proposed edits can be found as Attachment 3 to this report.

CONCLUSION:

Staff looks forward to the Committee's discussion, direction, and recommendations.

COORDINATION:

This report was coordinated with the Town Attorney's Office and Town Manager's Office.

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SUBJECT: Core Goals and Guiding Principles

DATE: March 22, 2022

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no associated fiscal impact.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

This is not a project defined under CEQA, and no further action is required.

Attachments:

1. Core Goals
2. Guiding Principles
3. Clean Copy of Proposed Edits