



TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

MEETING DATE: 09/06/2022

ITEM NO: 9

DATE: August 25, 2022
TO: Council Policy Committee
FROM: Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Approve the Recommendation of the Policy Committee to Update the Town Core Goals and Guiding Principles to Align with the 2040 General Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the recommendation of the Policy Committee to update the Town Core Goals and Guiding Principles to align with the 2040 General Plan.

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.

On March 22, 2022, staff brought proposed updates to the Council Policy Committee for review and direction. The staff report is Attachment 3 to this report. After discussion, the Committee unanimously agreed to postpone this item until after the Draft 2040 General Plan was approved by Council so that the General Plan's Vision and Guiding Principles may provide a foundation for the amendments to the Town's Core Goals and Guiding Principles.

On June 30, 2022, the Town Council adopted the Draft 2040 General Plan with modifications. The Vision and Guiding Principles section of the General Plan is Attachment 4 to this report.

PREPARED BY: Holly Young
Senior Management Analyst

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

BACKGROUND (continued):

On August 23, 2022, the Town Council Policy Committee agreed to forward a recommendation to the Town Council to update the Town Core Goals and Guiding Principles to align with the 2040 General Plan with slight modifications to the proposed language used in the Fiscal Stability and Public Safety sections of the Core Goals and Future Focus section of the Guiding Principles. The staff report is Attachment 5 to this report.

DISCUSSION:

Core Goals

The proposed updates to the Town's Core Goals, using language consistent with the approved 2040 General Plan's Vision and Guiding Principles, for Council consideration is as follows. Recommended deleted existing language is represented in ~~striketrough~~ with recommended additions in underline.

Community Character: Preserve and enhance the ~~appearance, character, and environmental quality of the Community.~~ Town's historic resources and small-town character; foster the economic vitality of all business locations; maintain and enhance diverse neighborhoods; promote sustainability practices; and protect and conserve the natural environment for present and future generations.

Community-Good Governance: Ensure open, responsive, accountable, transparent, accessible, inclusive, and collaborative government that encourages public involvement.

Fiscal Stability: Maintain ~~ongoing~~ current and long-term fiscal stability while striving to deliver high-quality, to provide cost-effective, and efficient municipal ~~core~~ services that meet the current and long-term needs of the community.

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

Civic Engagement: Foster opportunities for meaningful community citizen involvement in government processes, encourage recreational and personal enrichment, ~~and cultural, recreational, and individual enrichment.~~ and promote ethnic, cultural, and socio-economic diversity and equity to enhance the quality of life in Los Gatos.

DISCUSSION (continued):

Public Safety: Ensure public safety through proactive community policing, effective emergency response, ~~and community-wide emergency preparation, preparedness, education, and a~~ community design that is responsive to the full range of potential natural and human-made hazards and safety issues.

Guiding Principles

The proposed updates to the Town's Guiding Principles for Council consideration are as follows:

Small-Town Service is our commitment to providing services in a courteous, timely, equitable, and responsive manner. ~~We know that~~ Los Gatos is a welcoming, family-oriented, safe, beautiful, and sustainable community where people ~~want to live in because they~~ feel a sense of belonging. Our small-town character is important to all who visit, work, and live in ~~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 charm character, such as our Library children's story times and arts workshops, the 4th of July musical celebration event, Screen on the Green family-friendly movie nights, 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; a range of housing opportunities; historic neighborhoods; and a balanced, well-designed community with strong neighborhoods, outdoor recreation opportunities; environmental sustainability; local culture and art; art and cultural amenities, reliable basic equitable and responsive municipal services; open and transparent government processes; ,vibrant shopping districts;, a lively and accessible downtown; dynamic and thriving business community; public safety; a safe environment; a choice of mobility options; superior public facilities and services; 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 to ensure a high quality of life ~~for today's residents and for~~ present and future generations, positioning the Town to be resilient as the climate changes. ~~Planning for the Los Gatos of the future as needs change and opportunities arise is integral to the decision-making we undertake today.~~ We work to preserve and enhance the Town's historic resources, small-town character, and natural environment while guiding the community into the future. Our General Plan is subject to change as ideas develop and priorities evolve. We also keep the future in focus by looking for more efficient new and better ways of doing business – whether it's streamlining processes or utilizing effective technologies. ~~using technology to deliver services more efficiently.~~

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SUBJECT: Core Goals and Guiding Principles

DATE: September 6, 2022

DISCUSSION (continued):

A clean copy of the recommendations from the Policy Committee can be found as Attachment 6 to this report.

CONCLUSION:

In order to better align the Town Core Goals and Guiding Principles with the approved 2040 General Plan's Vision and Guiding Principles, staff recommends the Town Council approve the recommendation of the Policy Committee to update the Town Core Goals and Guiding Principles.

COORDINATION:

This report was coordinated with the Community Development Department, Town Attorney's Office, and Town Manager's Office.

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. Current Core Goals
2. Current Guiding Principles
3. March 22, 2022 Policy Committee Staff Report
4. Approved Los Gatos 2040 General Plan Vision and Guiding Principles
5. August 23, 2022 Policy Committee Staff Report
6. Clean Copy of Policy Committee Recommendations