



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 7/10/2019

ITEM NO: 6

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DATE: June 24, 2019  
TO: Planning Commission  
FROM: Joel Paulson, Community Development Director  
SUBJECT: Consider the Draft General Plan Vision Statement and Guiding Principles

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Forward a recommendation to the Town Council for approval of the draft General Plan Vision Statement and Guiding Principles.

**CEQA:**

These actions have no effect on the environment and are not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act. A final decision on the wording of the Vision Statement and Guiding Principles will be considered along with the approval of the 2040 General Plan. An Environmental Impact Report will be prepared as part of the General Plan update process.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Los Gatos General Plan update process has so far included the following:

- All-hands kick-off meeting (August 23, 2018)
- Launch of the General Plan update website, losgatos2040.com (early September 2018)
- EngagementHQ (Topics and surveys opened October 1, 2018)
- Newsletter #1 General Plan Overview (October 1, 2018)
- Community Workshop #1: Assets, Issues, Opportunities, and Vision (October 17, 2018)
- GPAC Meeting #1 (October 30, 2018)
- GPAC Meeting #2 (December 11, 2018)
- Background Report (March 15, 2019)
- Newsletter #2: Background Report Summary (March 20, 2019)

**PREPARED BY:** Jennifer Armer  
Senior Planner

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Reviewed by: Planning Manager and Community Development Director

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BACKGROUND (continued):

- Spring into Green Booth (April 14, 2019)
- GPAC Meeting #3 (April 23, 2019)
- GPAC Meeting #4 (April 30, 2019)
- GPAC Meeting #5 (May 23, 2019)
- GPAC Meeting #6 (June 20, 2019)

On April 23, 2019, the General Plan Update Advisory Committee (GPAC) held its third meeting to review the existing General Plan Vision and discuss potential modifications. At the GPAC meeting the GPAC members discussed the Vision chapter of the existing General Plan.

On April 30, 2019, the GPAC reviewed the draft Vision Statement developed at the previous meeting, along with draft Vision Statements provided by individual Committee members and Mintier Harnish Planning Consultants. The discussion resulted in a draft Vision Statement.

On May 23, 2019, the GPAC made a few small modifications to the draft Vision Statement, developed draft Guiding Principles, and voted to recommended approval to the Planning Commission and Town Council.

DISCUSSION:

The following are the draft Vision Statement and Guiding Principles developed and recommended by the GPAC on May 23, 2019.

A. Vision Statement

The Town of Los Gatos is a safe, welcoming, and family-oriented community nestled in the beautiful foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains. The Town is a sustainable community that takes pride in its small-town character and provides a range of housing opportunities, historic neighborhoods, local culture and arts, excellent schools, and a lively and accessible downtown. Los Gatos offers a choice of mobility options, superior public facilities and services, and an open and responsive local government that is fiscally sound. Los Gatos has a dynamic and thriving economy that includes a mix of businesses throughout Town that serves all residents, workers, and visitors.

B. Guiding Principles

**Transportation** — Provide 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.

DISCUSSION (continued):

**Sustainability** — Manage, conserve, and preserve Los Gatos' natural environment for present and future generations. Identify and provide opportunities to enhance the Town's sustainability policies and practices.

**Protect Natural Resources** – Protect the natural resources and scenic assets that define Los Gatos, including open space preserves, recreational trails, surrounding hillsides, and natural waterways.

**Fiscal Stability / Responsibility** — Provide high quality municipal services to the Los Gatos community while sustaining the Town's long term fiscal health.

**Government Transparency** – Conduct governmental processes in an open manner and encourage public involvement in Town governance.

**Community Vitality** — Invigorate downtown Los Gatos as a special place for community gathering, commerce, and other activities for residents and visitors. Foster the economic vitality of all Los Gatos business locations. Preserve the Town's historic resources as an on-going asset to the community.

**Diverse Neighborhoods** — Foster appropriate investments to maintain and enhance diverse neighborhoods, housing opportunities, and infrastructure to meet the needs of all current and future residents.

**Inclusivity** — Promote ethnic, cultural, and socio-economic diversity and equity to enhance the quality of life in Los Gatos.

**Promote Public Safety** – Maintain and enhance Los Gatos as a safe community through preparation and planning, education, and community design that is responsive to the full range of potential natural and man-made hazards and safety issues.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No written public comments have been received.

CONCLUSION:

A. Recommendation

Based on the recommendation of the GPAC, staff recommends that the Planning Commission review the draft General Plan Vision Statement and Guiding Principles included in the staff report and forward a recommendation to the Town Council for approval.

B. Alternatives

Alternatively, the Commission can:

1. Forward a recommendation to the Town Council for approval of the General Plan Vision Statement and Guiding Principles with modifications; or
2. Forward a recommendation to the Town Council for denial of the General Plan Vision Statement and Guiding Principles; or
3. Continue the matter to a date certain with specific direction.

EXHIBITS:

This report contains no exhibits.