

Casa Grande Preferred Future Workshop Summary Report

Date: April 23, 2008
Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Location: Dorothy Powell Senior Adult Center

Handouts

Preferred Alternative Vision Handout
Land Use Plan Map
Multimodal Circulation Plan Map
Economic Development Plan Map

Attendees (23):

Mary Ann Antone; Charlie Ballard; Ed Barbour; Suraj Bhakta; George Chasse; Alex Cruz; Brenda Cruz; Maryeileen Flanagan; Danny Granillo; Kazi Haque; Shirley Ann Hartman; Francis Homewytewa; Cory Jones; Chris Lindahl; Barbara Massey-Nino; Carter McKune; Paul Popelka; Thomas Poulson; Dick Powell; Ronald Servant; Bart Smith; Linda Taunt; Kent Taylor

MEETING SUMMARY

The purpose of the Pinal Preferred Future Workshop was to bring together residents and stakeholders from around Pinal County to receive input on Pinal Preferred Future built through the input of previous public involvement activities, work group input, and Comprehensive Plan Team effort and depicted in a series of three plans: land use, multimodal circulation, and economic development. Prior to the start of the event, participants reviewed the Pinal Preferred Future Plans and browsed related exhibits.

The event was guided by a detailed PowerPoint presentation that described the Comprehensive Plan process and project status, addressed some of the planning realities facing Pinal County, reviewed the Pinal County Vision, and described the land use, multimodal circulation, and economic development plans. The presentation guided participants through a feedback instrument that solicited input on the three plan maps presented, as well as 12 “Cool Tools” which could help implement the Plan; some of the “Cool Tools” presented were those offered by the Morrison Institute in their 2007 report, *The Future At Pinal*, while others were developed by the Pinal County Comprehensive Plan team. The Pinal Preferred Future Workshop PowerPoint is available in the project website Library at: www.PinalCountyPlan.com.

COMMENTS OFFERED IN OPEN HOUSE

- Ensure a span of quality educational opportunities (arts and culture, industrial arts, technical training, etc.)
- Embrace existing/traditional organizations, like 4H and women’s clubs, in our communities
- Multiuse, mixed use development necessary (combining housing, employment, training and cultural activity in the same centers)
- Work with Indian Communities to address regional issues (like transportation networks)
- Consider adding more ranchette residential (0-0.3 du/ac)

FEEDBACK FORM SUMMARY

Forms received: 14

Note: Feedback as found in this report is recorded as it was received and is not edited for content or grammar.

Pinal Preferred Future Plan Comments

Are there changes you would suggest regarding the **land use** plan?

- Land use looks good!
- My concerns are the water issues. Water is very scarce, so I am wondering how we are going to supply the people of these towns?
- I believe that all three of these are a good representation of what the consensus of the participants have said is important for the future of Pinal County.
- Why not try lowering the density until the next Loop Plan update? What assurances do the residents have from the County that open space will be retained in exchange for higher-density growth? Will there be a specific government objection when addressing this issue???
- Land use plan ought to limit growth, most particularly in view of resident's view and water availability.
- Preservation of rural areas.
- West Pinal (west of Stanfield) is already zoned largely 3.3 acres per home. Put the "Ranchette" idea there and along the 79 and most of the land between Florence, Coolidge, and Oracle Junction! Really protect open spaces in 100-500 acre tracks! Look where CC&R's are already 3.3 (Hidden Valley Estates) and make it into zoned as Ranchettes. Make zoning of 1 acre when abutting extra-low-density areas (3.3 per 10 acre parcels). I love the idea of use fees/impact fees used to purchase open space. I also like the idea of school partnership in conservation!
- Medium-density areas need to be made more available. Water availability is one part of this plan that needs a lot of attention.
- Not at this time.
- Water planning does not necessarily follow Adam Smith's "Economic Man" Theory. There are also environmental constraints in water management, i.e. Smart Growth.

Are there changes you would suggest regarding the **multimodal circulation** plan?

- Add feeder lines of and to the commuter rail line. Smaller lines feed to the "back bone" lines.
- Airport sounds great. Again, water needs.
- More transit; better regional roadway system. Acquire UPRR R.O.W. for transit in Pinal County.
- The plan provided speaks to development of unincorporated areas. The cities and towns do also need to restrict their residential development so the rural character of the county can be maintained.
- Ask homeowners if they want to live within a half mile of major routes which now don't even exist, except on the map (Ralston north of Roan and south of Teel).
- Has there been any negotiation with the Tohono O'Odham Nation regarding a proposed road through the north end of the nation?
- Not at this time.

Are there changes you would suggest regarding the **economic development** plan?

- Needs economic stimulus tools. Develop ideas on how industry will be lured to Pinal County! Important!
- Water needs, again, are very important and worry me. We need to save and preserve our water usage.
- The County needs to provide county-wide economic development incentives by improving roadway systems.
- No.
- I suggest putting at least one area for employment near the Sonoran Desert National Monument for employment (south of I-8, north of the Tohono O’Odham Reservation).
- Not at this time.

“Cool Tools” Selection Summary and Comments

Participants were asked to select up to four “Cool Tools” they liked most. The following summarizes the selection totals and any submitted comments.

Pinal Consensus Council: 6
Pinal as Regional Service Provider: 4
“Greenprint” Developable Lands: 6
Purchase Open Space: 7
Outdoor Education: 3
Megapolitan Mobility Project: 8
Community Garden Project: 1
Sonoran-Friendly Landscaping: 5
Pinal Scholars Fund: 4
County-Wide Broadband/WiFi: 6
“Green” Employment District: 2
Cash for Grass Rebate Program: 3

Comments provided:

Pinal Consensus Council:

- It is good to get everyone on the same page about the long-range development of the county.
- Seattle is a great model for tracking trends.
- I could see these two items (Pinal Consensus Council and Pinal as a Regional Service Provider) working in tandem with each other to provide not only services but planning for key services and amenities.

Pinal as Regional Service Provider:

- Would help out very much due to transportation times for the Tohono O’Odham Nation.
- Attract large businesses to provide jobs. Development on trade zone on the nearby reservations.

“Greenprint” Developable Lands:

- Protection of conservation areas. Preserve the natural habitat.
- Greenprint and Purchase Open Space logically go together. Any problems with Prop. 207?
- I see the Greenprint Plan and Purchase Open Space plan as part of an interlocking implementation strategy for the Open Space & Trails plan.
- Greenprint works well with the purchase of open spaces.

Purchase Open Space:

- Will be the only way that certain lands will remain open.

Outdoor Education:

- Since the children are the next caretakers of this area, they need to know how to care for the area.
- Working with school districts to have more outdoor activities, have school districts build more spread-out schools versus box-type schools.
- This could be part of the greater Open Space & Trails plan.
- We are outdoor people.

Megapolitan Mobility Project:

- Express how long-term transportation solutions could benefit an Indian Community. How would we, as Pinal County residents, benefit from this?
- Modeled or RTA? “Git ‘R Done”!
- Transportation is very important in such a large county.

Community Garden Project:

- No comments.

Sonoran-Friendly Landscaping:

- Would help out in water conservation.
- I am against dangerous plants. We need incentives for Xeroscape and water friendly.
- Keep the natural desert look.
- Good for water conservation.

Pinal Scholars Fund:

- This would work, but jobs are needed to keep them here.
- What about an entrepreneur program in place of the Scholars Fund? Bring in the best and brightest from elsewhere (replace brain drain with brain theft).
- Keep our children here to work for their families.

County-Wide Broadband/WiFi:

- This would be great for everyone throughout Pinal County.

“Green” Employment District:

- Good. We need to find ways to use other forms of energy to our benefit.

Cash for Grass Rebate Program:

- I see this as a strategy to the above county-wide native plant ordinance picture.
- Yes, so we can save water usage. Preserve our water.

Additional comments:

- Like all of these! Good thoughts!
- Mobility project does need to be done but it is essentially a one-shot effort. Pinal Scholars Fund is easily an outgrowth of industrial development. Growth of “small” businesses, i.e., less than 200 employees. Regional service provider is a “small group” of county employers acting in a coordinating role to bring together other parties.
- We do need to have good transportation and employment. We do need to keep areas good and keep our water needs.
- Thank you for all of your hard work.
- It is necessary for the County and other local opportunities to get together to plan land uses, transportation, open space, parks, etc. A lot of the items above can be joined and implemented through county-wide cooperative planning endeavors.
- “Purchase Open Space” impact fees can inhibit growth. WiFi: how is it paid for?
- Start the process of getting ASU in Casa Grande. It will take years, but start now.