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The General Plan 2040 update kicks off; city seeks community input

By Pippa Fisher



The General Plan guides policies in many areas within the city for the next 20 years, including open space. Photo courtesy city of Lafayette

housing, circulation, conservation, open space, noise, and safety in the city.

Every city and county in California is required by State law to have a General Plan that establishes conservation and development goals, as well as the location and intensity of different land uses. Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances and specific plans must be in conformance with the General Plan.

Council members supported staff's proposal to have the GPAC comprised of 11 members, including four representatives from commissions and committees (from Parks, Trails and Recreation, Transportation and Circulation, Senior Services, and Youth Commissions), four residential district representatives, one 'at-large' representative, one nonprofit and one Chamber of Commerce representative.

A lottery system will be used to allow all nonprofits equal chance of being drawn and it will be up to the selected nonprofit to provide its representative. It was agreed that a system of targeted outreach to underrepresented communities during the recruitment period and selecting GPAC members through a weighted district-based lottery to prioritize applications from Black, Indigenous, and people of color would be the best way to increase the likelihood of equitable representation from the community.

Council Member Teresa Geringer emphasized that in this process "everyone's voice will be heard."

The council supported executing a professional services agreement with Environmental Science Associates to serve as the lead on the required housing element CEQA document and Fehr & Peers as the traffic sub-consultant.

Lastly it was determined that Geringer would act as the primary council liaison to the GPAC in a non-voting capacity.

City staff will allow six weeks to accommodate extensive outreach and for applicants to respond.

Residents can find out more and view the introductory video at www.planlafayette.org/

Reach the reporter at: pippa@lamorindaweekly.com

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