



REPORT TO COUNCIL 48

City of Sacramento

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604
www.CityofSacramento.org

Information
December 12, 2006

**Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council**

Title: Status Report on the Fall 2006 Planning Academy

Location/Council District: Citywide program encompassing all Council Districts

Recommendation: Receive and File

Contact: Helen Selph, Assistant Planner, 808-7852; Raymond Costantino, Assistant Planner, 808-8826; Jim McDonald, Senior Planner, 808-5723

Presenters: Helen Selph, Assistant Planner, 808-7852; Raymond Costantino, Assistant Planner, 808-8826

Department: Long Range Planning

Division: Planning Department

Organization No: 4912

Description/Analysis

Issue: The Fall 2006 Planning Academy began on September 25th of this year and concluded on December 4th and is the seventh class since 2002. Twenty-three participants completed the class.

Policy Considerations: The Planning Academy is consistent with the City's Smart Growth Principles, and the City's goal of reconnecting with its neighborhoods and enhancing educational opportunities for the entire community, as stated in the City's Strategic Plan. City Council directed staff to create a smart growth implementation strategy, which would include the Planning Academy, when it adopted Smart Growth Principles into the General Plan on December 4, 2001. Since its inception, the Planning Academy has provided information about the benefits of Smart Growth and how to more effectively participate in future planning efforts.


Committee/Commission Action: None is required for this report


Environmental Considerations: Not applicable

Rationale for Recommendation: Not applicable

Financial Considerations: The Academy costs approximately \$5,000 per course to operate, not including in-kind staff time, depending on the number of participants and course length. Costs are funded by and budgeted in the Department's operating budget.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): Not applicable

Respectfully Submitted by: 
Tom Pace
Interim Principal Planner, Planning Department

Approved by: 
Carol Shearly
Director of Planning, Planning Department

Recommendation Approved:

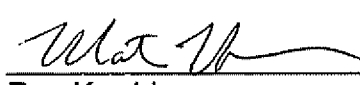
for 
Ray Kerridge
City Manager

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ATTACHMENT 1**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In 2002, the City Council directed Planning staff to implement a Planning Academy as a part of the City's Smart Growth Implementation Strategy. The first classes took place in 2002 and 2003.

In 2003 the American Planning Association's Sacramento Valley Section awarded the Planning Academy its Leadership and Service Education Program award. The APA recognized the Academy as a unique example of a responsive local government seeking a dialog with its citizens. The Academy continues to be a success.

The purpose of the Academy is to encourage citizens and other stakeholders to participate in the planning process and the City's smart growth initiatives by providing them with information that will make them more effective community advocates.

Participants: Twenty-three students participated in this class, representing a variety of public and private interests, ages, and occupations. A roster of the participants is provided on page 6 (Attachment 2).

Class Overview: Sixty five people applied to the Fall 2006 Planning Academy. Staff selected twenty-five applicants with the goal of accepting those most likely to continue to participate in the planning process and share their knowledge and experience through community participation. Staff strived for balanced participant representation from all council districts, age ranges, and occupational types, including public and private sector employees.

The Fall 2006 Planning Academy consisted of ten class sessions and two field trips over a eleven-week period. Participants were exposed to a variety of speakers and topics. The course syllabus outlines specific topics and lists individual speakers and is attached on pages 7-16 (Attachment 3). The following topics were covered in the course:

- The history of planning in Sacramento
- Local government planning and implementation
- The role of the General Plan and Community Plans
- The status of the City's General Plan Update
- Opportunity areas being addressed by the General Plan Update
- How the New General Plan can address urban form, transportation, and sustainability
- Regional planning efforts, including SACOG Blueprint
- CEQA compliance, Zoning and Design Review
- Downtown revitalization projects, economic development
- Transit oriented development and the land use and transportation connection
- Current City sustainability practices
- Ecological building, green building and LEED Certification

- Land use planning for public health, livability and sustainability
- Smart growth principles and practices
- The costs, benefits, and impacts of smart growth versus sprawl
- Housing, affordable housing and job/housing balance
- Effective participation in the planning process and, in turn, inspiring and training other community members
- How citizens can take part in the New General Plan planning process
- The public participation process and citizen involvement in planning issues

Academy speakers have included individuals from the private sector and public officials, including architects and developers as well as representatives from the following agencies and organizations:

- City of Sacramento, Development Services Department
- City of Sacramento, Planning Department
- City of Sacramento, Parks and Recreation Department
- Capitol Area Development Authority (CADA)
- Local Government Commission (LGC)
- Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG)
- Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Authority (SHRA)
- Regional Transit
- County of Sacramento, Department of Health and Human Services
- Professionals from the development sector (Regis Homes and Mogavero Notestine Associates)

Academy participants are given the opportunity to evaluate the speakers and the value of each class. At the conclusion of the course, they are given an opportunity to evaluate the course as a whole. In response to last year's evaluations of the course, we have added presentations on Zoning, CEQA and Design Review. Similarly, this year's course evaluation will influence the next course. Suggestions from speakers are also considered.

Graduates of previous Planning Academy sessions have used their experience to participate in their respective neighborhoods or organizations and some have also chosen to participate in the City's General Plan Update or to serve their community on Project Area Committees (PACS), Redevelopment Action Committees (RACS), commissions, or even on City Council. Fall 2006 academy graduates have been encouraged to participate in the City's General Plan Update, the Design Commission and the Preservation Commission or participate in other community planning efforts.

Schedule: The Academy is usually offered twice annually, in the spring and fall. Class length and timing during the General Plan Update may vary, depending on staff workload.

ATTACHMENT 2**FALL 2006 PLANNING ACADEMY PARTICIPANT LIST**

City Council District	Name	Affiliation
1	Amanda Leiker Fagan	Sacramento Turn Verein, Sacramento Valley Womens Soccer League
1	Maegan Hollister	None
1	Lynn Lenzi	Westlake Community External Affairs Committee, Girl Scouts of Tierra del Oro Board Member
1	Ronald Spingarn	Natomas Community Association Board, and Parks Committee Chair, Friends of the Park Chair
2	Loretta Price	North Sacramento School District Band Booster Club, Sacramento Association of Realtors National Association of Realtors, California Association of Realtors
3	Chrisanne Beckner	Red Cross, Women in Media Foundation
3	Cindy Collins	Pops in the Park Steering Committee; East Sacramento Room - Founding Member; former commissioner Sacramento City and County History and Science Commission (1998-2006); Curator, East Sacramento Historical Photo Display; liaison to East Sacramento Improvement Association
3	Gordon Gerwig	Sacramento Metro Chamber, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce, CFA Society of Sacramento
3	Suzanne Gilmore	Association of Environmental Professionals, Union of Concerned Scientists
3	Catherine Lieb	Marshall School and Boulevard Park Neighborhood Associations, Inner City Outings -Sierra Club
3	Clara Smith	Buddist Church Eastern Star, Historic Old Sac Fd, Rental Housing Association, Sac Bungalow Heritage, Sac Old City Association, Textile Arts, Winn Park Neighborhood Association
4	William Burg	Newton Booth Neighborhoods Association,
4	Rebecca Dowd	Alchemists Board, Sacramento County Disability Advisory Committee, California State Rehabilitation Council
4	Jodi Samuels	City Planning Commission, Captial Area R Street Association, Saratoga Townhomes Association
4	Evan Smestad	Capitol Area R Street Association, Fremont Community Garden
4	Rock Zierman	Southside Neighborhood Association, Sac Tree Foundation
5	Beth Barker-Hidalgo	Cabrillo Park Neighborhood Association, Environmental Council of Sacramento, Community Emergency Response Team
5	Solomon Kiflom	Oak Park Community Development/Habitat for Humanity
5	Melissa Meng	Sacramento Bicycle Advisory Committee, Oak Park Redevelopment Advisory Committee
6	Aubrie Fong	None
6	Joseph Hensler	Chairman Power Inn BTA, Member Army Depot Redevelopment Advisory Council, Board Member Towe Auto Museum
6	Mary Menconi	Board Member and Newsletter Editor Elmhurst Neighborhood Association, Sierra Club Mother Lode Chapter Member
7	Karen Olson	None
8	Walter Rice	South Sacramento Community Planning Advisory Council, Labor Union SEIU 1000 Environmental Committee

ATTACHMENT 3

**FALL 2006 CITY OF SACRAMENTO
PLANNING ACADEMY
SEPTEMBER 25 THROUGH DECEMBER 4
COURSE SYLLABUS**

Class 1: Welcome, Planning Academy Objectives, Planning 101 (Part 1)

- DATE: Monday, September 25, 5:30-8:30pm
LOCATION: New City Hall, 915 I Street, 5th Floor, Conf. Rm 5110,
THEME: Planning 101
- 5:30pm Dinner (buffet style)
- 6:00 pm: Meeting Facilitator – Helen Selph (808-7852) and Raymond Costantino (808-8826),
- Introductions
 - Overview of City Planning Academy objectives and policies
 - Ground Rules
- 6:30 pm: Speaker – Jim McDonald, Senior Planner, Long Range Planning, Planning Department
Welcome & Overview
- Overview of Planning in California
 - Land Use, New General Plan, Community Plans, New Growth Areas, Transit Oriented Development, Public Participation Process, Zoning Codes, CEQA
 - Differences between Planning and Development Services
 - How City departments are organized
- 7:00 pm: Q&A
- 7:15 pm: Speaker – Greg Bitter, Senior Planner, Development Services Department
- How projects are approved
 - Project Management
 - How Development Services and Planning are coordinated
 - Who to call with questions
- 7:45pm: Q & A
- 8:00-8:30pm: Closing Announcements & Speaker Evaluation
- Suggested Reading: A Guide to California Planning by William Fulton (Book)

Class 2: Planning 101 Continued (Part 2)

- DATE: Monday, October 2, 5:30-8:30pm
LOCATION: New City Hall, 915 I Street, 5th Floor, Conf. Rm. 5110,
THEME: Planning 101 Continued
- 5:30pm Dinner (buffet style)
- 5:45 pm: Meeting Facilitator – Helen Selph (808-7852), hselph@cityofsacramento.org
- Planning 101 (Setting Context)
 - Ground Rules
 - Announcements
- 6:00 pm: Speaker – Joy Patterson, Senior Planner, Development Services Department
- Zoning
- 6:30 pm: Q&A
- 6: 45pm: Speaker Luis Sanchez, Director of Design Review, Development Services Department
- Design Review
- 7:15pm: Q & A
- 7: 30pm: Speaker Tom Buford, Senior Planner, Development Services Department
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- 8:00pm: Q & A
- 8:15-8:30pm: Closing Announcements & Speaker Evaluation
- Readings: Citizen's Guide to Planning
CEQA: The California Environmental Quality Act

Class 3: The New General Plan

- DATE: Monday, October 9, 5:30-8:30pm
 LOCATION: New City Hall, 915 I Street, 5th Floor, Conf. Rm. 5110,
 THEME: Overview of General Plans & the City's New General Plan update.
- 5:30pm Dinner (buffet style)
- 5:45pm: Meeting Facilitator – Raymond Costantino (808-8826), rcostantino@cityofsacramento.org
- Overview & Context
 - Ground Rules
 - Announcements
- 6:00 pm: Speaker – Tom Pace, Interim Principal Planner, Long Range Planning, Planning Department
- The role of the General Plan: how it regulates development
 - Required General Plan elements
 - Additional General Plan elements unique to Sacramento: economic development, historic preservation, and community design
 - Making the General Plan work
 - New General Plan update process
 - A blueprint for the City of Sacramento
- 6:45pm: Q&A
- 7:00pm: Speaker – Remi Mendoza: Assistant Planner, Long Range Planning, Planning Department
- Community Outreach
 - What makes a great neighborhood?
 - What will make Sacramento the most livable city in America?
 - Opportunity Areas
 - Overview of Scenarios
 - Overview of General Plan Town Hall Forum Exercises & Results (Phase I & Phase I)
 - Next Steps in Community Outreach
- 7:45pm: Q&A
- 8:00-8:30pm: Closing Announcements & Speaker Evaluation
- Readings: Sacramento General Plan Update Q&A
 Sacramento General Plan Update Snapshot
 Sacramento General Plan Update Vision and Guiding Principles

Saturday General Plan Tour

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Date: | Oct 14, 8:30 am-12:00 noon (Meeting at 8:30am & leaving at 9:00pm) |
| Meeting Location: | New City Hall, 915 I Street (We will be meeting at the passenger loading area on the backside of the New City Hall facing H Street between 9 th & 10 th St.) |
| Tour Leader: | Jim McDonald, Senior Planner, Long Range Planning, Planning Department |
| Tour Coordinator: | Raymond Costantino (808-8826), rcostantino@cityofsacramento.org |

Class 4: Regional Planning for Smart Growth and Livability

- DATE: Monday, October 16, 5:30-8:30pm
LOCATION: New City Hall, 915 I Street, 5th Floor, Conf. Rm. 5110,
- THEME: Overview of SACOG Blueprint, Affordable Housing and Job/Housing Balance
- 5:30pm Dinner (buffet style)
- 5:45pm: Meeting Facilitator – Raymond Costantino (808-8826), rcostantino@cityofsacramento.org
- Overview & Context
 - Impression and thoughts of Saturday's General Plan Tour
 - Announcements
- 6:00 pm: Speaker – Kacey Lizon, Blueprint Implementation Coordinator, Sacramento Areas Council of Governments (SACOG)
- Sacramento Region: Blueprint Transportation and Land Use Study
- 6:45pm: Q&A
- 7:00pm: Speakers – Desmond Parrington, Associate Planner, Long Range Planning, Planning Department and Cindy Cavanaugh, Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Authority (SHRA)
- Affordable Housing and Jobs/Housing Balance
- 7:45pm: Q&A
- 8:00-8:30pm: Closing Announcements & Speaker Evaluation
- Readings: Special Report: SACOG Preferred Blueprint Alternative
Myths & Facts about Affordable and High Density Housing

Class 5: What Does Smart Growth Look Like?

DATE: Monday, October 23, 5:30-8:30pm
LOCATION: New City Hall, 915 I Street, 5th Floor, Conf. Rm. 5110,
THEME: What is Smart Growth? What does it look like? How can it help Sacramento become a more livable city?

5:30pm Dinner (buffet style)

5:45pm Meeting Facilitator: Helen Selph (808-7852), hselph@cityofsacramento.org

- Overview & Context
- Announcements

6:00pm: Speaker – Ashely Feeney, John Laing Homes

- Examples of Smart Growth Housing Developments

6:45pm: Q& A

7:00pm: Speaker – Bob Holmes, Regis Homes

- Examples of Smart Growth Housing Developments

7:45pm: Q&A

8:00-8:30pm: Closing Announcements & Speaker Evaluation

Readings: *The Ahwahnee Principles*
City of Sacramento Smart Growth Implementation Strategy
Better Ways to Grow- Seven Principles of Growth
Shining Places: Sacramento and National Examples of Smart Growth

Class 6: Facilitating Smart Growth in Sacramento

- DATE: Monday, October 30, 5:30-8:30pm
LOCATION: New City Hall, 915 I Street, 5th Floor, Conf. Rm. 5110,
THEME: Overview Smart Growth Efforts in Sacramento
- 5:30pm Dinner (buffet style)
- 5:45pm: Meeting Facilitator – Raymond Costantino (916) 808-8826,
rcostantino@cityofsacramento.org
- Overview & Context
 - Announcements
- 6:00 pm: Speaker – Paul Zykofsky, Local Government Commission
- Smart Growth, livability, and the public realm
- 6:45pm: Q&A
- 7:00pm: Speaker – Todd Leon, R Street Development Manager, Capital Area Development Authority (CADA)
- R Street Corridor
- 7:45pm: Q&A
- 8:00-8:30pm: Closing Announcements & Speaker Evaluation
- Readings: *R-Street Corridor Revitalization Plan*
Real Towns- Making Your Neighborhood Work

Saturday Central City and R Street Corridor Walking Tour

- Date: Nov. 4th, 8:30 am-12:00 noon (Meeting at 8:30am & leaving at 9:00pm)
Meeting Location: Meeting at Crepeville at 18th and L Streets and ending at Safeway at 19th and S Streets
- Tour Leader: Lindsey Alagozian and Michael York, Development Services Department
Tom Kigar, Development Director, CADA
- Tour Coordinator: Raymond Costantino (808-8826), rcostantino@cityofsacramento.org

Class 7: Getting around in Sacramento: The Land Use and Transportation Connection

DATE: Monday, November 6, 5:30-8:30pm

LOCATION: New City Hall, 915 I Street, 5th Floor, Conf. Rm. 5110,

THEME: Developer and City perspectives on the transportation-land use connection: Is it possible to accommodate future growth without gridlock?

5:30pm: Dinner (buffet style)

5:45pm: Meeting Facilitator – Raymond Costantino (808-8826), rcostantino@cityofsacramento.org

- Overview & Context
- Impression and thoughts of the Urban Design Tour from Saturday

6:00pm: Speaker – Sparky Harris

- Level of Service Standards
- Alternate Modes
- Pedestrian Master Plan
- Bikeway Master Plan

6:45pm: Q&A

7:00pm: Speaker – Greta Vohlers and Traci Canfield, Regional Transit Staff

- Transportation Planning

7:45pm: Q & A

8:00 pm: Closing Announcements & Speaker Evaluation

Readings: *Calming the Community – Traffic Calming in Downtown Sacramento*
Which Comes First, the Neighborhood or the Walking?
Fighting Pollution, Not Each Other

Class 8: Sustainability

- DATE: Monday, November 13, 5:30-8:30pm
LOCATION: New City Hall, 915 I Street, 5th Floor, Conf. Rm. 5110,
- THEME: Overview of Green Buildings and the City's Sustainability Agenda and existing efforts
- 5:30pm Dinner (buffet style)
- 5:45pm: Meeting Facilitator -- Raymond Costantino (808-8826), rcostantino@cityofsacramento.org
- Overview and Context (Special Intro by Bob Chase, City of Sacramento)
 - Announcements
- 6:00 pm: Speaker -- David Mogavero, Architect
- Green Buildings
- 6:45pm: Q&A
- 7:00pm: Speakers -- Gary Stonehouse and Jim McDonald, Long Range Planning, Planning Department
- Sustainability Agenda
- 7:45pm: Q&A
- 8:00pm: Closing Announcements & Speaker Evaluation
- Readings: Our Changing Climate- Assessing the Risks to California
- Exercise: Check out your ecological footprint at www.myfootprint.org

Class 9: Health & Livability

DATE: Monday, November 20, 5:30 – 8:30
LOCATION: New City Hall, 915 I Street, 5th Floor, Conf. Rm. 5110,
THEME: How Can We Have a More Sustainable, Livable City?

5:30pm: Dinner (buffet style)

5:45pm: Meeting Facilitator – Helen Selph (808-7852), hselph@cityofsacramento.org

- Overview and Context
- Announcements: Remember No Class on Monday, November 27th

6:00pm: Speaker: Teri Duarte, Department of Health and Human Service, Sacramento County

- "Land Use Planning: What's Health Got to Do With It?"

6:45pm: Q & A

7:00pm: Speaker – JP Tindell, Park, Planning, & Development Manager, Park & Recreation Department

- Parks, Public Health & Livability

7:45pm: Q & A

8:00pm: Closing Announcements & Speaker Evaluation

Readings: Measuring the Health Effects of Sprawl

Class 10: What does the future hold for Sacramento?

DATE: Monday, December 4, 5:30-8:30pm
LOCATION: New City Hall, 915 I Street, 5th Floor, Conf. Rm. 5110,
THEME: Panel discussion on Obstacles to Smart Growth and the Importance of Citizen Involvement

5:30pm: Meeting Facilitators – Helen Selph (916-808-7852),
• Overview & Context
• Introductions

5:30pm: Opening Remarks: Mayor Heather Fargo

5:45pm: Food Break

6:00pm: Panel Discussion: Perspectives on Political setting, obstacles to Smart Growth and the Importance of Citizen Involvement in community planning.

Panelists

- Barry Wasserman, Planning Commissioner, Sac Co. Urban Design Manager
- David Kwong, Current Planning Manager
- Brooks Truit, Community Activist
- Bill Hartman, Regis Homes

7:00pm: Tim Quintero -- Closing Remarks on continued involvement

7:15pm: Q&A for Panel

8:15-8:30 Closing announcements/Select class speaker/Class evaluation

Readings: *For Urban Developers, A Hard Row to Hoe*
Sacramento's Older, Successful Neighborhoods: Can We Recreate Them?

Graduation Night: Council Presentation

Date: Tuesday, December 12
Location: 915 I Street, 1st Floor
Reception: 6:00 – 6:45, Closed Session Room
Presentation: 7:00pm, Council Chambers