

Oracle Preferred Future Workshop Summary Report

Date: April 17, 2008
Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Location: Mountain Vista School

Handouts

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

Attendees (11):

Evaline Auerbach; Christine Baines; Rebecca Beisenstein; Cameron Carter; Brent Crowther; Charles Emerson; Judy Freeman; Alan Levenson; Elizabeth Levenson; Christopher Lucic; and Jack Walden

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

- Include Trails Master Plan as part of the Comprehensive Plan
- “Loop” the Hospitality/Tourism corridor from Florence Junction through Superstition Vistas, down SR 79, connecting back to Oracle Junction
- Identify specific ATV parks where users are empowered to maintenance facility
- Encourage alternative energy use/creation to maintain sustainability vision
- Make Pinal a place known for sustainability education/research

FEEDBACK FORM SUMMARY

Forms received: 6

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?

- Having dense population/industrial/business area in the west and low density/ hospitality area in the east seems workable and wise. It is realistic.
- Looks good.
- Preserve highways 77 and 79 as tourist/open space attraction with eating, sleeping and play opportunities.
- Keep the parkways off the Arizona Trail and other trails! Give us a picture of the trails/roads overlaid.

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

- Envision a scenic loop for tourism that includes 77, 79, 177 and 60.
- Very much approve the main corridor concept.
- Looks good.
- Trains as a way to move people and freight, as opposed to trucks and cars on highways.
- Keep the parkways off the Arizona Trail and other trails! Give us a picture of the trails/roads overlaid.

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

- Yes, I like the plan. How about making the hospitality corridor a loop using the 79?
- Looks good.
- Enhance opportunities for small business in small communities. This can be done A.S.A.P.
- Just more emphasis on involving young people (through college age) in becoming educated regarding what they can do to have a livelihood and live where they like. ATV's, hiking, biking, etc. How about trying to attract windmill and solar farms?

“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: 1

Pinal as Regional Service Provider: 1

“Greenprint” Developable Lands: 5

Purchase Open Space: 4

Outdoor Education: 0

Megapolitan Mobility Project: 3

Community Garden Project: 0

Sonoran-Friendly Landscaping: 2

Pinal Scholars Fund: 2

County-Wide Broadband/WiFi: 4

“Green” Employment District: 2

Cash for Grass Rebate Program: 0

Comments provided:

Pinal Consensus Council:

- I like it, but its suspect unless it has real, legal teeth.
- A first and most essential step.

Pinal as Regional Service Provider:

- Not unless Pinal County's corruption is cleaned up first!

"Greenprint" Developable Lands:

- Travis County, Texas. Austin City.

Purchase Open Space:

- Only if golf courses are not considered "open space".
- If we don't, the areas will be overrun.

Outdoor Education:

- I like this too, if it includes educating them in ways to make a living while preserving the outdoors.

Megapolitan Mobility Project:

- The key to economic development.

Community Garden Project:

- I like this too!

Sonoran-Friendly Landscaping:

- Including fire resistant, but varied by ecosystem.

Pinal Scholars Fund:

- Scholarships to learn to do something that is useful for a sustainable future.

County-Wide Broadband/WiFi:

- Also a key to economic development.

"Green" Employment District:

- No comments.

Cash for Grass Rebate Program:

- Just make them do it. Don't pay them off. Make golf courses do this! Would be a lot of people in developments cashing in.

Additional comments:

- Next Tuesday/Wednesday in Oracle, EcoVillage is having meetings about building "green" here. How can they interface with the County/this plan. Call Monday: (520) 490-2175. Make it code: no golf courses allowed (unless the plants are friendly/native).

- Outdoor Education, Community Gardens, Sonoran Landscape, Cash for Grass all seem to be connected and already partly covered by the University System in Cooperative Extension, 4-H and Master-Gardeners. We need to support this existing system.
- All of the 12 were great ideas, but I checked those I deemed “must haves”.
- I approve ALL the cool tools. What a terrific list! It was difficult to choose my top four; I want them all.