

CITY OF COTATI
AGENDA for the SPECIAL Meeting of the Planning Commission

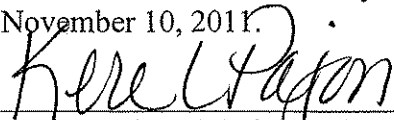
DATE OF MEETING: Monday, November 14, 2011
TIME OF MEETING: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE OF MEETING: Cotati City Hall, City Council Chambers
201 West Sierra Avenue, Cotati, CA 94931

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. For the meeting of October 17, 2011
- IV. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA
- V. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS - *Public is asked to please step to the podium and state your name and address for the record. Please limit your comments to items not already agendized for discussion.*
- VI. MATTERS AT HAND
 - A. General Plan Update Meeting #5: Community Health & Wellness
- VII. REPORTS BY STAFF
- VIII. REPORTS BY COMMISSION
- IX. ADJOURNMENT

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Cotati Planning Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection in the Community Development Department located at 201 West Sierra Avenue, Cotati, California, during normal business hours.

Disabled Accommodation: Upon request, this agenda will be made available in appropriate formats to persons with disabilities as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Any person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in a meeting should contact the Deputy City Clerk at (707) 665-3622 at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SONOMA, CITY OF COTATI, I declare under penalty of perjury that I am employed by the City of Cotati in the Planning Division; and that I posted this agenda on the bulletin boards of City Hall, U.S. Post Office, and Veteran's Memorial Building on or before November 10, 2011.


Kerl L. Pajon, Administrative Secretary

CITY OF COTATI
MINUTES for the Regular Meeting of the Planning Commission

DATE OF MEETING: Monday, October 17, 2011
TIME OF MEETING: 7:00 pm
PLACE OF MEETING: Cotati City Hall, City Council Chambers
201 West Sierra Avenue, Cotati, CA 94931

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Moore called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Brady, Ford, Hancock, Vice Chair Ritter and Chair Moore
Commissioners Absent: None
Staff Present: Parker and Pajon
Consultants: Beth Thompson and Ben Ritchie, DeNovo Planning Group

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. For the Regular Meeting of September 19, 2011

Motion:	Vice Chair Ritter made a motion and Commissioner Ford seconded the motion to approve the September 19, 2011 minutes.
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Yes: 4 Noes: 0 Abstain: 1 Absent: 0

B. For the Regular Meeting of October 3, 2011

Motion:	Vice Chair Ritter made a motion and Commission Brady seconded the motion to approve the October 3, 2011 minutes with corrections from Commissioner Hancock and Commissioner Ford.
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Yes: 5 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 0

IV. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

V. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Citizen Karen Mihalovich asked for an accommodation and spoke about issues on Windmill Farms. She submitted a letter for the record.

Nicholas Alva, Old Redwood Highway, commented on the noise level from modified vehicles and that this violation should be enforced.

In response to George Barich's comment about procedure, Community Development Director Parker explained that the City of Cotati follows ADA state requirements, which requires the City to provide reasonable accommodation.

VI. MATTERS AT HAND

A. General Plan Update meeting #4: Circulation and Noise

Community Development Director Parker welcomed everyone and turned the presentation over to Consultant Ben Ritchie.

Consultant Ben Ritchie opened the Circulation and Noise segment of the General Plan Update.

Consultant Zack Matley spoke about local transportation and circulation throughout Cotati.

Consultant Ben Ritchie reviewed the feedback information from the Vision Workshops.

PUBLIC COMMENT opened at 7:35 pm

Greg Karraker, 1200 Railroad Avenue, commented on pedestrians and bicyclists and wondered how much the City is going to spend on 2% of travelers.

Joyce Garcia inquired about bicycle studies and funds that are spent for bicyclist and pedestrians routes. She asked if there was solid information available about bicycle ridership to support the funds that will be required. She doesn't feel it is a smart way to spend taxpayers' money.

Nicholas Alvo said that he is a bike rider and commutes to work on the Laguna trail. He said that the current streets are not safe and he has to drive his kids everywhere. He feels that more people would ride if there were safer routes available.

Cory Lafond, agreed with the bike plan and said that if there were better bike paths available that the percentage of riders would grow.

Kathryn Wickstrom asked for the definition of traffic calming. She said that Old Redwood Highway is a thoroughfare and a gateway to Highway 101.

Vince (last name unknown), SSU student, stated that the overall road maintenance prevents many bikers from riding.

Tom Scott, Olivers' Market, stated that over 50% of business comes from outside the city and that outside traffic is needed for businesses to succeed. He said that aggressive calming on arterials may force traffic into the neighborhoods.

Laurie-Anne Barbour, Ross Street, is in favor of increased bike facilities and that bicycle riders include school children. She said that it is reasonable that funds would be spent encouraging bicyclists and walkers and that more people would bike and walk if it were safe.

PUBLIC COMMENT closed at 7:48 pm

In response to Commissioner Hancock, Consultant Matley explained AB1368, which requires all modes of transportation are being addressed.

Consultant Thompson responded to the inquiry of why so much money is being spent on bicyclist and pedestrian improvements. She explained that the General Plan and this process identifies community desires, but that funding has not been obligated.

Consultant Matley explained the following:

- the 1% bicycling and 2% walking in the slide presentation was “commute to work” data only
- county studies on bicycle ridership indicate that more people would bike and walk if there more paths and safer routes
- there are different levels of traffic calming available and many factors in choosing measures for a particular street

Community Development Director Parker explained that the City uses very little General Fund money for roadwork and that the City must comply with Federal and State laws for streets. She said that the needs of bicyclists and pedestrians are not being put ahead of other needs, but that future plans would ensure all users were accommodated.

1. In developing a goal and policy framework to address transportation and circulation, what top three issues or actions should the City prioritize?

Commissioner Brady:

- a walkable Cotati means a “shopable” Cotati
- improving our public transit stops (needs covering)/ paratransit place to sit
- Old Redwood Highway improvements

Commissioner Ford

- plugging gaps in bike and pedestrian network
- public transit
- Old Redwood Highway, north of the hub

Vice Chair Ritter

- sidewalks for a walkable Cotati
- bicycling / connectivity
- improvements to the Old Redwood Highway to Stony Point on Hwy. 116, including Madrone and Alder

Commissioner Hancock

- safe routes to school

- healthy and safe alternatives for bicycles and pedestrians
- local signage for community, how to understand and communicate ways of connecting

Chair Moore

- traffic speed on E. Cotati near Rohnert Park border (safe for all modes and reinforce citing)
- safe routes to Thomas Page School (this has been a priority since 1998)
- signage and information for locals

2. *In reviewing the 1998 General Plan goals and policies best address the concerns you identified?*

a. *Which 1998 General Plan goals and policies best address the concerns you identified?*

b. *Which priorities are not addressed in the 1998 General Plan?*

Commissioner Hancock said signage would be a good implementation program.

Chair Moore said that Madrone and Hwy. 116 needs to be added

Consultant Ben Ritchie presented the noise segment of the General Plan Update.

Commissioner Hancock said that there didn't seem to be anything to identify maximum levels of impulse noise.

Discussion ensued on the noise ordinance.

PUBLIC COMMENT opened at 8:38 pm

Nick Alvo said that noise caused by automobiles is explosive and is destructive energy with negative outcomes.

PUBLIC COMMENT closed at 8:43 pm

3. *In developing a goal and policy framework to address noise, what top three issues or actions should the City prioritize?*

Chair Moore

- late night noise (between 2:00 am and 6:00 am)
- construction downtown need to anticipate existing conditions and enforcement; mixed-use (apartments vs. delivery) emphasis on understanding the challenges of comingling and mitigation

Commissioner Ford

- loud vehicles

- understanding of developing compatible mixed use developments in the downtown

Commissioner Brady

- enforcement

Commissioner Hancock

- vehicles (non-muffled/impulse noises) on Old Redwood Highway and E. Cotati
- what is the newest technology for noise attenuation

Vice Chair Ritter

- bar/motorcycle noise (health and quality of life)
- highway 101 noise
- curfews on leaf blowers/mowers

VII. REPORTS BY STAFF

Community Development Director Parker spoke on the following:

Due to the closure of City Hall during the last two weeks of December, there will not be a December 19th meeting. Staff would like to have a meeting on December 12th to bring several projects forward.

All Planning Commissioners agreed on the December 12th date.

The Association of Environmental Professionals will not be able to make the October date for their training date and they will keep us informed when the date is announced.

VIII. REPORTS BY COMMISSION

The Commission requested that packets be available earlier.

Consultant Thompson advised the Commission that Chapter 2 is required reading for the next meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED by Chair Moore at 9:05 pm

Keri L. Pajon
Planning Commission Secretary

Cotati General Plan Update

MEMORANDUM

November 14, 2011

TO: Planning Commissioners

FROM: Vicki Parker, Community Development Director
Beth Thompson and Ben Ritchie, De Novo Planning Group

SUBJECT: Community Health and Wellness

DATE: November 14, 2011

INTRODUCTION

This Planning Commission meeting will focus on the topic of Community Health. This meeting packet includes specific reading materials related to community health and wellness, and raises key issues to consider in preparation for the fifth General Plan Planning Commission meeting. The Community Health Element is an optional element of the General Plan.

“Community health” is a broad term and determinants or factors relating to community health are addressed by various elements of the General Plan. The Community Health Element will focus on the City’s policy decisions that can facilitate or encourage healthy lifestyles that are not addressed by other elements of the General Plan. The table below identifies the primary topics associated with community health and identifies which General Plan Element will address each specific topic.

Community Health Topic	General Plan Element
Community participation/civic pride	Community Health Element
Economic health and growth	Economic Vitality Element
Environmental quality, including clean air and clean water	Community Health and Conservation Elements
Healthy foods and local food production	Community Health Element
High-quality and affordable housing	Housing Element
Medical and health services	Community Health Element
Park facilities	Land Use Element
Public facilities and services (water, sewer, police, fire, etc.)	Public Facilities Element
Recreation opportunities	Community Health and Land Use Elements
Safe neighborhoods and public spaces	Community Health Element
Sustainable development	Land Use Element
Walkable neighborhoods with access to services	Circulation and Land Use Elements
Walking, bicycling and public transit	Circulation Element

To: Planning Commissioners
Subject: #5 - Community Health
Date: November 14, 2011
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As part of the Visioning Process, residents and stakeholders were asked to identify their vision and priorities for the City's future, as well as challenges and opportunities associated with the General Plan Update. Of the four Visioning Workshops, one focused on community health, housing, and human services issues. Participants at this workshop were asked several questions related to community health; the questions and responses are summarized below.

What contributes to a healthy community?

- Safe and expansive opportunities for bicycle and pedestrian transportation options
- Strong and transparent City services
- Public safety
- Affordable housing

What should change or improve, or what should the General Plan focus on, to improve or increase community health and wellness in Cotati?

- Environmental sustainability
- Public safety
- Graffiti
- Clean air
- Transportation based improvements

What are the primary human services needs/issues?

- Affordable health care
- Language barrier
- Improved transportation
- Cultural/diversity awareness, translation, education

A complete list of community health concerns raised at the second Visioning Workshop is included in Attachment 1. In addition, the following concerns related to community health and wellness were identified at the first Visioning Workshop:

- Incorporate more community art and cultural activities.
- Increase local food production, urban agriculture, and healthy food options.

The City's 1998 General Plan includes goals and policies specifically related to community health. It is anticipated that the Commission will review these policies for relevancy and scope, and if necessary, expand upon them as part of this General Plan Update.

To: Planning Commissioners
Subject: #5 - Community Health
Date: November 14, 2011
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REQUIRED READING

Prior to the meeting on November 14th, please read the following items:

1. Visioning Workshop #2: Community Health and Wellness Priorities and Issues (see Attachment 1)
2. Background Information - Community Health and Wellness: Chapter 4 of the Background Report (previously provided to the Planning Commission)
3. 1998 General Plan Goals and Policies related to Community Health and Wellness (see Attachment 2)

OPTIONAL READING

If you are interested in additional research regarding community health, the Healthy by Design workbook published by Sonoma County provides an excellent discussion of local and regional approaches to addressing community health issues. The Healthy by Design workbook includes the following information:

- An inventory of general plan policies currently in place around Sonoma County that address key topics associated with community health.
- A series of success stories from around the County, including especially noteworthy general plan policies; short case studies of some successful policies, regulations, programs and projects; and several areas where there is identified interest in a topic and opportunities identified for future consideration.
- A number of inspirational stories from elsewhere, including stories that highlight local government approaches to addressing public health concerns through land use planning by jurisdictions outside of Sonoma County.
- A resource section as a guide to more information, organizations, websites, sample policies, and other research.

The Healthy by Design workbook may be downloaded from the General Plan Update website at: <http://cotati.generalplan.org/content/background-documents>.

WORK EXERCISE

After reading the materials identified above, please consider the following questions and be prepared to discuss:

1. In developing a goal and policy framework to address community health and wellness, what top three issues or actions should the City prioritize?
2. In reviewing the 1998 General Plan policies related to community health and wellness:
 - a. Which 1998 General Plan goals and policies best address the concerns you identified?
 - b. Which priorities are not addressed in the 1998 General Plan?

ATTACHMENT 1

VISIONING WORKSHOP #2: COMMUNITY HEALTH PRIORITIES AND ISSUES

WHAT DOES COMMUNITY HEALTH MEAN?

Essential City services
Healthy General Fund reserves
Emergency preparedness and emergency drills
Televising City meetings
Transparency in City Hall
Drivable community
Community health is intrusive - people have rights and free will
Government should not make health decisions for a community or any individual
Developing a built environment that provides opportunities for active transportation - walking, bicycling
Provide children and parents the ability to walk and bike safely to school
Educate the public through schools and in the community about health and environmental benefits of safe walking and bicycling practices
Include a General Plan language for Safe Routes to Schools programs - both infrastructure and non-infrastructure
Direct public works to make improvements to the built environment and to educate public about taking advantage of such improvements
Improve community health with year-round farmers markets
Freedom to make my own decisions and not be told what to do by marxists
A place where people can walk and bike to the services they need
Making Cotati a safe place for our citizens
Events that focus on sense of community and health
Accessible place to be physically active, parks, sidewalks, bike lanes
Schools with walk/bike routes
Limit concentration of alcohol and tobacco outlets
Affordable housing
Good air and water quality
Community gardens
Healthy good outlets
Take into account input from tax-paying citizens
Better roads
Clear, clean water
Mosquito abatement
Better walkways
Mowed weeds
Holistic conception of healthy mind, body, and spirit
Triple bottom line - economic sustainability, environmental sustainability, social justice
Community resiliency - emergency and disaster preparedness
Access to housing so I can live and work in my city
Access to healthcare services in the community
Public safety

ATTACHMENT 1

VISIONING WORKSHOP #2: COMMUNITY HEALTH PRIORITIES AND ISSUES

COMMUNITY HEALTH PRIORITIES (in order of importance)

- Environmental Sustainability
- Public Safety
- Graffiti
- Clean Air
- Transportation Based Improvements

HUMAN SERVICE NEEDS

Human Services Needs (City)

Need	# Votes
Affordable health care	3
Accessibility	1
Language barrier (translation, etc.)	3
Public transportation	1
Jobs	1
Employment referral	1
Health care	1
Affordable exercise facilities	1
Affordable dental care	1
More/better bike paths	1
Bike/Ped safety for disabled (wheelchair-accessible paths/sidewalks)	1

Human Services Needs (Regional)

Need	# Votes
Improved transportation	6
Education	1
Language barrier (including diversity awareness/education for service providers)	2
County building permit process	1
Reduce permit fees for non-profit affordable housing developers	1
Affordable health and dental care	1
Affordable legal/mediation services	1

ATTACHMENT 2
1998 GENERAL PLAN GOALS AND POLICIES: COMMUNITY HEALTH

GOAL 4 HELP CREATE A "SENSE OF COMMUNITY" BY PROVIDING PUBLIC FACILITIES THAT ENCOURAGE SOCIAL INTERACTION AND CIVIC PRIDE.

4.1.1 Locate new park and recreation facilities in areas which are accessible and convenient to the community.

4.1.2 The City of Cotati shall pursue, where feasible, the shared use of school facilities.

4.1.3 The City shall expand recreational opportunities in the existing facilities to accommodate a wider range of activities for all age groups.

4.1.4 The City shall reserve parkland to meet the recreational needs of future residents established by the City's growth projections.

GOAL 6 ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF COTATI RESIDENTS THROUGH THE CREATION AND MAINTENANCE OF WELL-DESIGNED AND APPROPRIATELY SERVED NEIGHBORHOODS.

6.1.1 Assure that all residential developments are located near land uses that would not be visually unaesthetic, noisy or unsafe.

GOAL 8 MAINTAIN ADEQUATE PUBLIC AND PERSONAL SERVICES AND FACILITIES THAT MEET THE MEDICAL, SCHOLASTIC, RECREATIONAL, WATER, AND SEWAGE NEEDS OF COTATI.

8.5.1 Facilitate the location of private preschools and all-care centers, especially those that operate year-round.

8.6.1 Supplemental health programs and services shall be established and maintained.

8.6.2 The City shall provide training programs to the public in emergency health care such as first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

8.6.3 Establish a referral service system providing information on substance abuse and related programs.