



MEMORANDUM

July 26, 2013

TO: General Plan Update Working Group

FROM: Beth Thompson and Ben Ritchie, De Novo Planning Group

SUBJECT: August 1st Meeting – Community Design and Community Health

DATE: July 26, 2013

INTRODUCTION

The August 1st meeting will focus on the topics of Community Design and Community Health. As these topics can be very broad and will require covering a variety of specific issues, it will be particularly important to keep the meeting focused and productive.

The August 1st meeting will also provide an opportunity for the Working Group to complete its discussion of the review of the draft Goal and Policy sets, specifically with respect to Conservation and Open Space.

This meeting packet includes specific reading materials related to community design and community health, and raises key issues to consider in preparation for the next Working Group meeting. As the Working Group is aware, it is critical that each member come to the next meeting having read the materials identified in this memo and having prepared and organized thoughts, comments, and questions related to these General Plan topics. Please direct any questions regarding the assigned reading materials or the issues to be discussed during this next Working Group meeting to Erik Nolthenius, Planning Manager. Erik can be reached by phone at: 925-516-5137, or by email at: enolthenius@brentwoodca.gov.

The Community Design and Community Health Elements are both optional elements of the General Plan. The City's existing General Plan includes a Community Design Element, but does not include a Community Health Element.

The Community Design Element will define the urban form and character of Brentwood, while preserving and enhancing the desirable aspects of the community. The element will establish goals and policies that will guide the revitalization of the City's existing urban environment, while coordinating design efforts in areas of new development in order to fashion sometimes diverse urban design elements into a distinct sense of place that enhances the quality of life of those people who live and work in the community.

The concepts of community health and wellness will be interwoven throughout most elements of the General Plan, and may also be presented as a list of goals, policies, and action items in a stand-

alone Community Health and Wellness element. If the Working Group expresses an interest in addressing community health as a stand-alone element of the General Plan Update, this element can be prepared. Community health and wellness considers the following topics:

- Access to parks and recreational facilities;
- Availability of healthy and local foods;
- Urban agriculture/forests;
- Access to medical services;
- Access to active transportation and public transit;
- Access to a range of high-quality and affordable housing;
- Access to economic opportunities;
- Walkable neighborhoods with access to services;
- Safe neighborhoods and public spaces;
- Crime prevention through environmental design;
- Environmental quality; and
- Green and sustainable development practices.

As part of the visioning process that occurred in November and December of last year, 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. The need to preserve the city's small-town feel and charm, the protection of natural resources, and access to parks and recreational facilities were consistently cited as top priorities by the community during the visioning process.

The City's existing General Plan includes goals, policies, and action programs specifically related to community design. It is expected and anticipated that the Working Group will review these for relevancy and scope, and if necessary, expand upon them as part of this General Plan Update.

REQUIRED READING

Prior to the meeting on August 1st, please read the following items:

1. **Background Information** – Chapter 6.0 (in its entirety) of the Existing Conditions Report
2. **Opportunities and Constraints** –Section 4.1 of the Opportunities and Constraints Report
3. **Existing General Plan** - Chapter II Community Design

WORK EXERCISE

As the Working Group will be discussing the Community Design and Community Health items separately, after reading the materials identified above, please consider the following questions and be prepared to succinctly discuss your responses:

1. Are there areas where the City is currently deficient or needs significant improvement?
2. What are the top three priorities that the General Plan should address?
3. Please review the Key Questions contained in Section 4.1 of the Opportunities and Constraints Report, and come prepared to discuss your thoughts in response to these questions.