

**SUMMARY REPORT
OF COUNCIL ACTION TAKEN AT THE MARCH 12, 2009, JOINT WORK SESSION**

This summary is a statement of discussions engaged in by the Cottonwood City Council and the Planning & Zoning Commission of the City of Cottonwood at a joint work session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02(D), and is being provided as required by A.R.S. § 38-431.01(D).

Council Members Present

Diane Joens, Mayor
Karen Pfeifer, Vice Mayor
Tim Elinski, Council Member
Duane Kirby, Council Member
Linda Norman, Council Member

Council Members Absent

James Chapman, Council Member
Terence Pratt, Council Member

Staff Members Present

Doug Bartosh, City Manager
George Gehlert, Community Development Director
Casey Rooney, Economic Development Director

Richard Smith, Deputy Clerk
Kyla Allen, Executive Assistant

Planning & Zoning Commission Members Present

Pat Dixon Jake Gonzalez Richard Kevin
Ed Kiyler Diane Lovett Darold Smith

P & Z Commission Members Absent

Raymond Cox

Mayor Joens called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION TO STAFF:

REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF HOUSING ELEMENT

Mr. Gehlert reviewed the City's General Plan as required by State Statute. Although a review of housing was not mandated, it was considered essential to maintain economic growth and the city's position as the commercial center of the Verde Valley. There existed an imbalance between the supply of and the demand for affordable housing. Alternative housing types, land trusts, and assistance with ownership were concepts for consideration, though the issue was one which was thought to require regional collaboration. New ordinances had been created to ensure better maintenance of properties as well as health, safety, and quality of life issues. Plans for housing assistance were to be implemented with the acquisition of a VISTA worker program later this year.

The Council directed staff to have representatives experienced in the creation of land trusts give a presentation to them in the future.

REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT

Mr. Rooney stated the key to economic development was the creation of the right environment for business to grow and prosper. Commercial and industrial diversity were essential, as was the need to support and assist existing businesses. Various organizations and websites were being developed and promoted to achieve these ends. The transit system and medical facilities would continue to be an asset to economic development as would the library expansion, the recreation center, and the new industrial park by the airport on Willard Street. Staff recommended completing a 5-year plan, continued support of local business organizations, and the development of a Special Area Plan for Old Town.

ARIZONA SMART GROWTH SCORECARD

Mr. Gehlert reviewed a preliminary assessment of the Arizona Smart Growth Scorecard which was designed by the Department of Commerce for municipalities to demonstrate their adherence to sustainability issues. The score card must be completed and filed with the state in order to be considered for state discretionary spending.

Council direction was for staff and the Council to thoroughly review our responses and file as soon as would be practical.

NEXT JOINT WORK SESSION DATE & AGENDA ITEMS

Staff recommended the next joint meeting be held May 14, 2009, when land use would be the main topic of discussion.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC—This portion of the agenda is set aside for the public to address the Council regarding an item that is not listed on the agenda for discussion. However, the Council cannot engage in discussion regarding any item that is not officially listed on the agenda for discussion and/or action (A.R.S. §38-431.02.(H.)). Comments are limited to a 5 minute time period.

No members of the public chose to speak.

ADJOURNMENT

The Special Joint Work Session adjourned at 7:45 p.m.