

GPAC Experience Survey Results

INTRODUCTION

The City of Sacramento started updating its general plan, a document that guides future growth and development in the City, in 2004. The City's general plan was last updated in 1988, so it was outdated and in need of reflecting current vision and ideas. The 2030 General Plan, as it was later named, was developed over the next several years through an extensive outreach process and reflects the guiding vision that "Sacramento will be the most livable city in America."

The General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) was influential in shaping the 2030 General Plan. The GPAC was established by adoption of a Council Resolution on August 29, 2004 to build community support and to review and comment on the General Plan. The GPAC was made up of twenty-five (25) members who were residents within the City of Sacramento. Eight of the members each represented a Council district and were appointed by the Councilmember of that district, while the remaining members were at-large appointees by the Mayor.

The GPAC first met on September 27, 2004 and last met on September 22, 2008. The GPAC typically met on the last Monday of the month with the occasional special meeting. The GPAC organized itself into five subcommittees of five members to focus on certain topic areas and to provide more in-depth analysis of products produced throughout the 2030 General Plan process.

In September 2008, Staff and the GPAC's Chair and Vice-Chair discussed the benefits of conducting some type of focus group or survey after the GPAC sunset to evaluate the members' experiences on the GPAC. As a result, Staff developed an online survey. The purpose of the survey is to inform Staff about GPAC's experiences, and to help shape and improve the role and purpose of advisory or steering committees in future planning projects.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

After the GPAC sunset on September 25, 2008, Staff sent a link to an online survey on Survey Monkey to former GPAC members regarding their experience on the GPAC. The survey was sent out on Wednesday, November 5, 2008 and ended on Wednesday, November 19, 2008.

There were a total of eight questions, with all requiring responses except for the last question regarding providing additional comments. The questions were created to determine whether respondents were satisfied with the GPAC. All yes or no questions required an explanation to gain an understanding for the response.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Sixteen of the 23 remaining¹ former GPAC members responded to the survey (an approximate 70% response rate). Approximately 75% of the respondents were satisfied with the GPAC. These respondents stated that they liked the interaction among Staff, Council, the community, and Council, and that the GPAC played a significant role in the process. The majority of respondents also were satisfied with the role the GPAC subcommittees played, and the number of GPAC members.

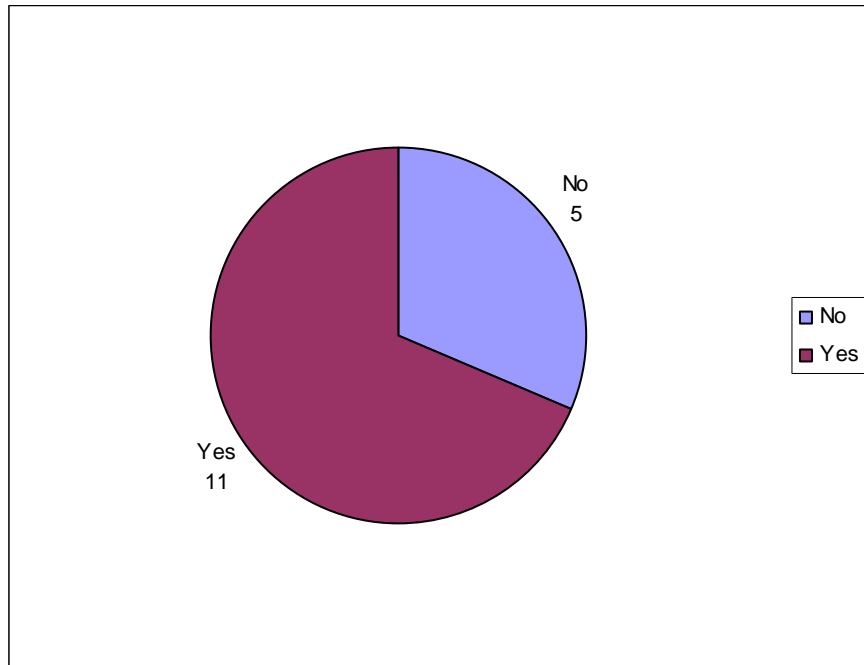
Based on the overall responses, it appears that having a GPAC was worthwhile. Although improvements could be made to the GPAC, it appears that the GPAC model could be replicated in future planning processes.

Below is a more complete summary of responses to each of the survey questions. The detailed responses, taken verbatim, are in the Appendix, attached to this summary report. The detailed responses include the open-ended responses by question and individual responses to each question.

¹ It should be noted that 2 seats on the GPAC were vacant at the time that the GPAC expired.

1. What was it about the GPAC that got your interest in applying?	
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to shape the City's future
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest in land use/planning issues
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offering insight and/or learning about the General Plan and planning process
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement with Planning Academy
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Councilmember encouragement

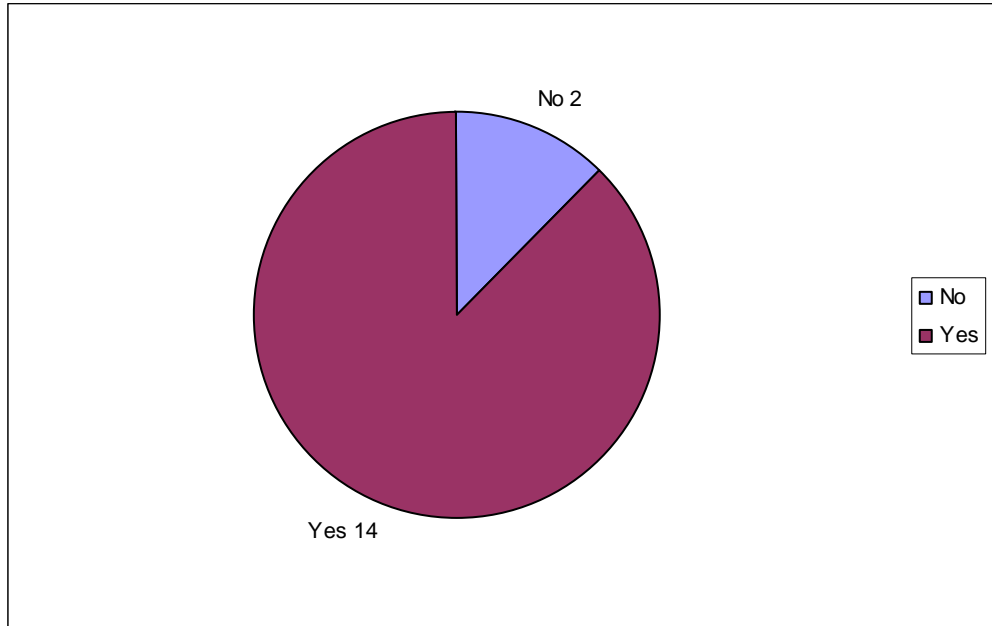
2. Would you apply to serve on the GPAC again if it came up?



2a. Why or why not?

<i>Yes responses</i>	
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liked contributing and making an impact
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thought it was educational and productive
<i>No responses</i>	
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was too lengthy.
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The individual participant is important, not the experience.
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GPAC had little influence on the General Plan.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting times did not work.

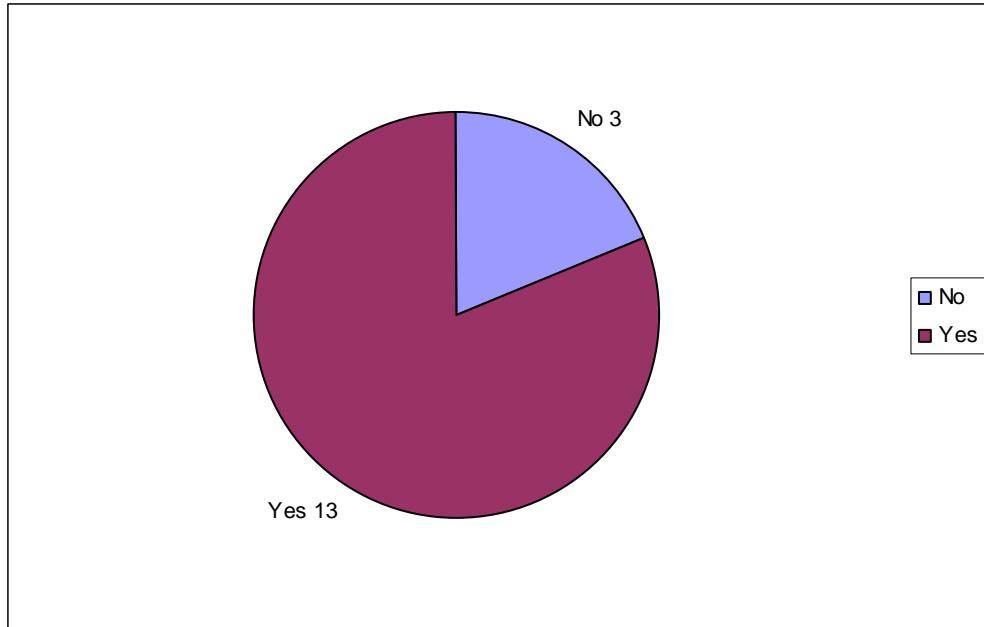
3. Were you satisfied with the role GPAC played in the General Plan process?



3a. Why or why not?

<u>Yes responses</u>	
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighborhood interests were accounted for
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Played significant role in the General Plan Update process
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interaction among Staff, Consultants, Community, and Council was good
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff didn't seem to embrace a community policy body providing input in the beginning
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learned from the process
<u>No responses</u>	
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GPAC had little impact on the process (mostly Staff driven).

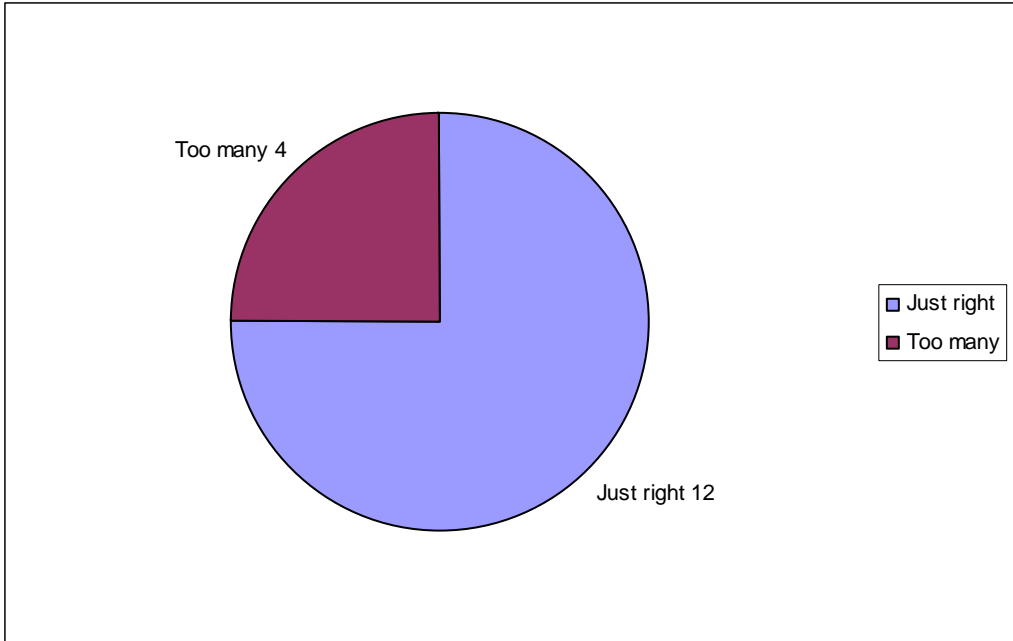
4. Were you satisfied with the role the GPAC subcommittees played in the General Plan process?



4a. Why or why not?

<u>Yes responses</u>	
6	• Couldn't have covered all that was completed.
6	• Allowed more detailed focus.
1	• Staff interaction was good.
<u>No responses</u>	
1	• What rules?
1	• Didn't function effectively.
1	• Suggestions weren't followed.

5. Do you think the number of GPAC members were too many, just right, or not enough?



5a. Why?

<u>Yes responses</u>	
10	• Need good cross-section representation
2	• It worked.
<u>No responses</u>	
1	• Lack of participation
3	• Unwieldy at times

6. What could have been improved about the GPAC?	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace those who don't show up.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that tools are in place for quick and easy access to materials.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some GPAC members dominated the meetings – should have more orderly discussions with time limits.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide clear understanding of advisory role.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have 3-person subcommittee meetings without conflict of other subcommittee meetings.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future GPAC members should be compensated and more involved in drafting of the plan.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced GPAC size, better meeting room, staff consistency or less turnover.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have GPAC understand that there are limitations in dealing with public input.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smaller, interaction with other bodies (TAC, etc.), and tightening up the community outreach effort.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two or three of extended workshops would have been valuable at key points in the process. Also, time limit on meetings.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking the GPAC input seriously and including it in the staff recommendations.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The length of the meetings – the agendas were too large.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holding members accountable for lack of attendance.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Felt like the GPAC were rushed to make recommendations.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes materials weren't delivered in a timely manner.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subcommittees could have been put into action earlier.

7. What would you not change about GPAC?	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bus tour at the beginning, Chairman Yee, City Staff commitment to the process, fair dialogue every step of the way...
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The representative composition of the GPAC.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The interest of the members generated valuable discussions for Staff.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Susanne did a great job organizing.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff interaction, subcommittees worked well, and communication of what was coming next at future meetings.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nothing.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smaller, interaction with other bodies (TAC, etc.), and tightening up the community outreach effort.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Membership, communication, effective use of online information, the meeting schedule in general, and the relationship of staff and consultants to GPAC.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everything else.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food being offered.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The people, the staff, and the Consultants were great.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The relationship between the Staff and GPAC. Staff were professional, helpful, and a delight to work with.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The website.

8. Do you have any additional comments?	
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thanks for the opportunity. Keep us informed.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was an educational and rewarding experience.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At four years, the process took too long. However, the GP covered all the areas of concern and is consistent with the Guiding Vision and Principles.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairman Yee did a good job of maintaining the decorum.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thank you to all GPAC members and Staff for a successful conclusion.

APPENDIX

Responses to Each Question

1. What was it about the GPAC that got your interest in applying?

- Learning about how the planning process worked and helping to decide on what would be the best general plan for the future of the City of Sacramento.
- I wanted to be involved with the process of updating the General Plan and learn more about the different roles of the stakeholders and how they influence the process.
- The opportunity to help shape our City's future.
- the opportunity to have a direct impact on the land use policies for our city over the next 20+ years.
- The ability that I had a chance to voice my ideas (and concerns) about what I wanted to create, shape, and see the future of Sacramento. This city has potential and I am honored not just to live here, but to create and steer the city to where it should be.
- City Councilperson encouraged me.
- I was president of ESIA, and a long-time board member, and thus interested in land use issues
- A long time interest in planning generally and a recent experience (the McDonald's at Florin and Riverside) in dealing with a grass roots issue related to planning.
- Getting involved in long-range community planning effort
- Being able to provide a perspective and offer insight to the process
- Understanding, influence and keeping abreast of the General Plan direction.
- Using my skills and time to contribute to shaping the future of the community.
- It was an opportunity to participate in defining the future of the City.
- Growth of Sacramento; to minimize sprawl.
- To able to apply my planning background and practice in shaping the future of Sacramento.
- my involvement with Planning Academy

Responses to Each Question

3. Would you apply to serve on the GPAC if it came up again? Why or why not?

- Yes: I think that although the process was much longer than anticipated, the committee brought a lot of different views together to ensure that a fair representation of the city had input into the process of establishing a good general plan.
- Yes: I appreciated the opportunity to review all draft documents and the time that staff spent with us to provide presentations and information to help us serve our roles as best we could.
- Yes: It was a valuable learning experience and I believe we had an impact on some important decisions.
- Yes: whatever level of compromise we ended up with, the end product was more of what I envision for our city, than I feel it might have been were I not participating.
- Yes: I would serve in the future as this was a stepping point and I could have the ability in 20 years to say that I worked on the 2030 GP, and now it is time to work on the next GP. I think it is a great way to take part of the city.
- Yes: I liked having some input into the direction the City is going. Although the time commitment was challenging.
- No: I am pulling back on going to so many meetings.
- Yes: If I had it to do over again, I would certainly choose to apply. I learned a great deal. I was able to contribute materially to linking my community to the involvement in plan development. I think GPAC contributed significantly to the quality of the GP.
- Yes: I am hoping our involvement had an impact
- Yes: Educational and proved to be a very productive and successful process
- No: The day the GPAC met ended up a poor night for my schedule.
- No: I felt like the planning staff pretty much did all the legwork (and thus ran the show) and that the GPAC members really had little say in shaping the ultimate product. My participation seemed like a formality.
- No: The individual participant is important, not the experience.
- Yes: I would consider another appointment to GPAC because of my long standing interest in the development of Sacramento.
- No: I felt that I served two terms on the GPAC, given the extended project schedule. Overall, it was a good experience; but I would prefer to participate in other areas and organizations in the future.
- Yes: like voting, don't complain unless you contribute to the solution

Responses to Each Question

5. Were you satisfied with the role GPAC played in the General Plan process? Why or why not?

- Yes: I learned a huge amount of information and although I did not have a lot of experience in the process, I felt that when I had something to contribute, I was heard. The process also allowed me to educate my community on the processes in hopes to get other community members involved in future planning or other city processes.
- Yes: I was mostly satisfied that our committee was able to vote on and make recommendations throughout the process. But sometimes felt that there was dissatisfaction over some issues that were never quite resolved or were "glossed" over.
- Yes: This was a tough question to answer since I had a certain set of expectations at the beginning of the process that were never fully realized. However, those expectations evolved as our role became more clear as time went on. I had expected to play a greater role in decision making but soon realized that staff and the consultants were responsible for the decisions, ratified by the GPAC and, of course, the Council.
- Yes: we were able to influence the vision and policies of the General Plan.
- Yes: I do feel that I could have done more, participated a little more, but I felt that I have learned from this process
- No: I think that staff directed our decisions and that we didn't always have a voice although we were led to believe we had a voice in the process.
- Yes: The staff interaction was good, and staff was generally very responsive to comment
- Yes: I think staff and consultants made continual and serious efforts to provide the GPAC with information and opportunity to influence the GP.
- Yes: I said "yes" but I would qualify it. I think sometimes City staff (at beginning particularly) didn't seem to embrace a community policy body providing input.
- Yes: Staff recognized that the community input into the process is a very integral part on providing community awareness and making sure that all side of community needs are recognized.
- Yes: I liked the oversight of the process and the staff interaction. Any thing more would have been too intrusive to the work done by staff.
- No: See above.
- Yes: It had the attention of staff, consultants, commissions, council, and community.
- Yes: Under the constraints of an advisory committee, GPAC exerted as much influence as possible.
- Yes: I felt that GPAC played a significant role in the General Plan Update process. Most of the GPAC members were very engaged and passionate about the issues being addressed by the GP.
- Yes: we're further along, with neighborhood interests clearly accounted for, than we were before

Responses to Each Question

7. Were you satisfied with the roles of the GPAC Subcommittees? Why or why not?

- Yes: There was a huge amount of work to be done and the subcommittees took their jobs seriously and got the details handled and reported out to the group. I think that the subcommittees could have been put into play much sooner than they did, but when they did they got things done.
- Yes: With such a large committee, I think it was more effective and efficient for the subcommittees to review and advise on certain elements of the GP. Unfortunately, there weren't many opportunities for subcommittees to cross-review or make sure integration of the elements was consistent.
- Yes: The vast amount of information necessitated the use of subcommittees. Where the process fell down, in my view, is that the GPAC as a whole had to rely on the views of the subcommittees which felt biased in some cases. We were expected to accept their recommendations when we didn't have sufficient information to make an individual decision.
- Yes: it would have been impossible to focus on all aspects of the General Plan to the extent we were able to do so in our subcommittees.
- Yes: I think the sub committees helped achieve certain points of the GP and helped push the GP along to its draft. If it wasn't for the subcommittees, we would not have come this far as we have today.
- No: The housing subcommittee played an important role but the suggestions were not followed. Staff blamed the EIR for the housing element and did not include the suggestion to take the mixed income ordinance city-wide.
- see above
- No: The subcommittee on which I served did not function effectively. I just do not think we put sufficient effort into many of our tasks. Answering "yes" or "no" is difficult. I think our outreach efforts were good in some parts of the process. Hearing reports of the other subcommittees persuades me that some did better than mine.
- Yes: I think we did a thorough review of relevant docs
- Yes: Provided detail input into the process
- Yes: Provided adequate oversight to specific areas. Like the smaller group.
- No: What rules?
- Yes: They allowed the GPAC to sufficiently review and discuss the elements within the time constraints.
- Yes: Sub-Committees were vital to GPAC's ability to intelligently review, evaluate and make recommendations on the issues brought to GPAC.
- Yes: The subcommittees allowed for more detailed and focused analysis of the specific elements.
- Yes: no way we could've covered all the ground effectively otherwise, and the subcommittee members did show sincere commitment and products delivered were excellent

Responses to Each Question

9. Do you think the number of GPAC members were: Why?

- Just right: There needs to be a fair representation of the city on the committee. I think this committee was made up of a good representation of all districts, businesses, and representatives from all areas. It's important to have the different views and perspectives in order to make sure we consider all aspects of the planning and how they will effect all of the citizens of Sacramento for the future.
- Just right, because it seemed there was a good cross-section of stakeholders from the community. Sometimes though, it definitely seemed like there were too many people to get through so much material. There may have been better ways to facilitate discussion of such a large group or a better ways to gather comments and make sure everyone had an opportunity to give their input.
- Too many: The large number was cumbersome. Also, many of the members did not actively participate and should have been removed.
- Just right: a solid cadre of members did show up each meeting, allowing a good cross-section of the city, and enabling a quorum each meeting.
- Just right: 25 seemed to be a fair number. However, I think the ideal should have been somewhere between 15 to 25 people. The more people you have, the more it can become out of control with opinions raised, etc. Too few of people, and nothing gets accomplished.
- Just right: Seemed like a good diverse group that represented all areas of the city and the different jobs.
- Just right: not sure; a somewhat smaller group might have made meetings more efficient, and increased individual member responsibility
- Just right: I suppose nothing is "just right," but I think the size of the committee and the conduct of the meetings achieved a broad representation of the city's interests that a smaller group could not have accomplished. I think the chair and the participants made it work. I think the members mutually respected the participation rights and opportunities of their colleagues.
- Too many: An unweildy group at times.
- Just right: Because it worked from my perspective
- Too many: The large amount of people on the committee made the meetings go much to long. Some members did not really say much. I did not like the venues either because of the size.
- Just right: Need adequate representation of the city's interests.
- Just right: Less may not have provided enough diversity, and more would have been time consuming and a drain on member's energy and focus.
- Too many: Difficult to maintain the interest of members for four years. Thereby, creating concern for achieving a quorum at each meeting. Lack of participation by some members. Smaller group might have been more effective.
- Just right: The number of GPAC members were fairly representative of the city.
- Just right: need good cross-section of representation, without shorting any one group. good dialogue resulted.

Responses to Each Question

10. What could have been improved about the GPAC?

- My only thought was that the subcommittees could have been put into action earlier in the game. I know that we went quite awhile with members of the committee emphasizing that we wanted to be more hands on and involved ... not just a rubber stamp committee.
- Sometimes materials weren't delivered in a timely manner. In some cases, I would have appreciated more time to review draft documents. Otherwise I think staff did a great job of delivering materials, keeping everyone notified of meetings and providing updates.
- I'm not sure how you could deal with this but at times it felt like we were rushed to make recommendations. We got off to a confused start and had a number of personnel changes which seemed to slow things down at times.
- holding members accountable for lack of attendance. It was deplorable how some simply did not show up.
- The length of the meetings. the agenda size-- it seems as if we always had big agendas, which caused long meetings. In that case, I think if the city knew that the it was a full agenda, then I think the city should have split up the meetings into two separate meetings and not one huge meeting.
- Taking the GPAC input seriously and including it in the staff recommendations. I don't think this was always the case.
- the chair was very good, but I think a time limit on meetings would have helped focus things.
- I think two or three extended workshops (5 or 6 hours) would have been valuable at key points in the process. I realize this requires a commitment of time on everybody's part, but if they had been projected far enough in advance, everyone could have adjusted. Do this at well chosen points in the GP development would have overcome the limitations of the evening meetings. I would think these workshops would have to have been scheduled on a weekend. I also think we could have use more analysis of the limitations of the existing GP.
- Smaller. Interaction with other bodies (TAC etc). Tightening up the community outreach effort.
- Having GPAC participant understand that while we are in thei together ther are limitations dealing with public input
- GPAC Size. Better meeting room. Staff consistency or less turnover.
- I think future GPAC members should be compensated and more involved in drafting the actual plan.
- Three-person subcommittees meeting without time conflict of other subcommittees.
- Provide clear understanding of advisory role. Early outreach role of GPAC was not clearly understood by all members.
- I felt that some GPAC dominated the meetings; so I would recommend a more orderly discussion within a certain time limit.
- those who don't show up. + ensure the Contractor and/or City staff have systems tools that enable quick visualization of concepts, transitions, height impacts, FAR impacts, etc. to foster better comprehension and common views among GPAC members.

Responses to Each Question

11. What would you not change about GPAC?

- I thought that the city staff and the committee worked very well together. The diversity of the committee was certainly an aspect and helped me learn about details of the city that I had no concept of before. I think overall the process was very good.
- The website?
- The relationship between City staff and the GPAC. Staff were professional, helpful and a delight to work with. They hung in with the GPAC when it had to be very difficult.
- the mix. it was good having neighborhood advocates and representatives from the land use development - it generated good dialogue.
- The people... The staff.... the consultants were great..
- Food being offered.
- everything else.
- Membership. Communication. Effective use of online information. The meeting schedule in general. The relationship of staff and consultants to GPAC.
- See previous
- Nothing
- Staff interaction. Subcommittees worked well. Communication of what was coming next at future meetings.
- Suzanne did a great job organizing the project.
- The composition of the committee.
- The interest of members in the issue of growth and the General Plan generated some valuable discussions for Staff consideration.
- The representative composition of the GPAC.
- Bus tour at the beginning, Chairman Yee, city staff commitment to the process, fair dialogue every step of the way... the list goes on.

Responses to Each Question

12. Do you have any additional comments?

- Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this process. I would love to serve on committees again in the future. It helps me to understand processes better, and then in turn pass that on to other citizens to help them understand and be involved in the city government processes. It was a very powerful learning experience for myself, my children and my community.
- Thank you for the opportunity to serve on the GPAC! I learned a great deal about the General Plan and about the City of Sacramento and its wonderful staff!! Keep up the great work and I look forward to the future of Sacramento under this General Plan.
- I feel honored to have been part of the process and am grateful for having had the opportunity to serve my City in this way.
- hats off to Joe Yee for a tremendous, and very consistent job of Chairing the committee. He was very even in his directing of the dialogue, and very open to new ideas placed on the table.
- Thanks for the opportunity!
- No
- Just that I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to serve.
- None except thank you to all GPAC members and Staff for seeing this through to the successful conclusion
- Chairman Yee also did a good job maintaining decorum.
- At four years, the process took too long. However, the General Plan covered all the areas of concern and is consistent with the Guiding Visions and Principles.
- It was an educational and rewarding experience.
- thanks for the opportunity - keep us informed. what about five (5) year updates - are we involved?

Individual Responses

1. What was it about the GPAC that got your interest in applying?

Learning about how the planning process worked and helping to decide on what would be the best general plan for the future of the City of Sacramento.

2. Would you apply to serve on the GPAC if it came up again?

Yes

3. Why or why not?

I think that although the process was much longer than anticipated, the committee brought a lot of different views together to ensure that a fair representation of the city had input into the process of establishing a good general plan.

4. Were you satisfied with the role GPAC played in the General Plan process?

Yes

5. Why or why not?

I learned a huge amount of information and although I did not have a lot of experience in the process, I felt that when I had something to contribute, I was heard. The process also allowed me to educate my community on the processes in hopes to get other community members involved in future planning or other city processes.

6. Were you satisfied with the roles of the GPAC Subcommittees?

Yes

7. Why or why not?

There was a huge amount of work to be done and the subcommittees took their jobs seriously and got the details handled and reported out to the group. I think that the subcommittees could have been put into play much sooner than they did, but when they did they got things done.

8. Do you think the number of GPAC members were:

just right

9. Why?

There needs to be a fair representation of the city on the committee. I think this committee was made up of a good representation of all districts, businesses, and representatives from all areas. It's important to have the different views and perspectives in order to make sure we consider all aspects of the planning and how they will effect all of the citizens of Sacramento for the future.

10. What could have been improved about the GPAC?

My only thought was that the subcommittees could have been put into action earlier in the game. I know that we went quite awhile with members of the committee emphasizing that we wanted to be more hands on and involved ... not just a rubber stamp committee.

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12. Do you have any additional comments?

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this process. I would love to serve on committees again in the future. It helps me to understand processes better, and then in turn pass that on to other citizens to help them understand and be involved in the city government processes. It was a very powerful learning experience for myself, my children and my community.

Individual Responses

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Yes

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I was mostly satisfied that our committee was able to vote on and make recommendations throughout the process. But sometimes felt that there was dissatisfaction over some issues that were never quite resolved or were "glossed" over.

6. Were you satisfied with the roles of the GPAC Subcommittees?

Yes

7. Why or why not?

With such a large committee, I think it was more effective and efficient for the subcommittees to review and advise on certain elements of the GP. Unfortunately, there weren't many opportunities for subcommittees to cross-review or make sure integration of the elements was consistent.

8. Do you think the number of GPAC members were:

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9. Why?

Just right, because it seemed there was a good cross-section of stakeholders from the community. Sometimes though, it definitely seemed like there were too many people to get through so much material. There may have been better ways to facilitate discussion of such a large group or a better ways to gather comments and make sure everyone had an opportunity to give their input.

10. What could have been improved about the GPAC?

Sometimes materials weren't delivered in a timely manner. In some cases, I would have appreciated more time to review draft documents. Otherwise I think staff did a great job of delivering materials, keeping everyone notified of meetings and providing updates.

11. What would you not change about GPAC?

The website?

12. Do you have any additional comments?

Thank you for the opportunity to serve on the GPAC! I learned a great deal about the General Plan and about the City of Sacramento and its wonderful staff!! Keep up the great work and I look forward to the future of Sacramento under this General Plan.

Individual Responses

1. What was it about the GPAC that got your interest in applying?

The opportunity to help shape our City's future.

2. Would you apply to serve on the GPAC if it came up again?

Yes

3. Why or why not?

It was a valuable learning experience and I believe we had an impact on some important decisions.

4. Were you satisfied with the role GPAC played in the General Plan process?

Yes

5. Why or why not?

This was a tough question to answer since I had a certain set of expectations at the beginning of the process that were never fully realized. However, those expectations evolved as our role became more clear as time went on. I had expected to play a greater role in decision making but soon realized that staff and the consultants were responsible for the decisions, ratified by the GPAC and, of course, the Council.

6. Were you satisfied with the roles of the GPAC Subcommittees?

Yes

7. Why or why not?

The vast amount of information necessitated the use of subcommittees. Where the process fell down, in my view, is that the GPAC as a whole had to rely on the views of the subcommittees which felt biased in some cases. We were expected to accept their recommendations when we didn't have sufficient information to make an individual decision.

8. Do you think the number of GPAC members were:

too many

9. Why?

The large number was cumbersome. Also, many of the members did not actively participate and should have been removed.

10. What could have been improved about the GPAC?

I'm not sure how you could deal with this but at times it felt like we were rushed to make recommendations. We got off to a confused start and had a number of personnel changes which seemed to slow things down at times.

11. What would you not change about GPAC?

The relationship between City staff and the GPAC. Staff were professional, helpful and a delight to work with. They hung in with the GPAC when it had to be very difficult.

12. Do you have any additional comments?

I feel honored to have been part of the process and am grateful for having had the opportunity to serve my City in this way.

Individual Responses

1. What was it about the GPAC that got your interest in applying?

the opportunity to have a direct impact on the land use policies for our city over the next 20+ years.

2. Would you apply to serve on the GPAC if it came up again?

Yes

3. Why or why not?

whatever level of compromise we ended up with, the end product was more of what I envision for our city, than I feel it might have been were I not participating.

4. Were you satisfied with the role GPAC played in the General Plan process?

Yes

5. Why or why not?

we were able to influence the vision and policies of the General Plan.

6. Were you satisfied with the roles of the GPAC Subcommittees?

Yes

7. Why or why not?

it would have been impossible to focus on all aspects of the General Plan to the extent we were able to do so in our subcommittees.

8. Do you think the number of GPAC members were:

just right

9. Why?

a solid cadre of members did show up each meeting, allowing a good cross-section of the city, and enabling a quorum each meeting.

10. What could have been improved about the GPAC?

holding members accountable for lack of attendance. It was deplorable how some simply did not show up.

11. What would you not change about GPAC?

the mix. it was good having neighborhood advocates and representatives from the land use development - it generated good dialogue.

12. Do you have any additional comments?

hats off to Joe Yee for a tremendous, and very consistent job of Chairing the committee. He was very even in his directing of the dialogue, and very open to new ideas placed on the table.

Individual Responses

1. What was it about the GPAC that got your interest in applying?

The ability that I had a chance to voice my ideas (and concerns) about what I wanted to create, shape, and see the future of Sacramento. This city has potential and I am honored not just to live here, but to create and steer the city to where it should be.

2. Would you apply to serve on the GPAC if it came up again?

Yes

3. Why or why not?

I would serve in the future as this was a stepping point and I could have the ability in 20 years to say that I worked on the 2030 GP, and now it is time to work on the next GP. I think it is a great way to take part of the city.

4. Were you satisfied with the role GPAC played in the General Plan process?

Yes

5. Why or why not?

I do feel that I could have done more, participated a little more, but I felt that I have learned from this process

6. Were you satisfied with the roles of the GPAC Subcommittees?

Yes

7. Why or why not?

I think the sub committees helped achieve certain points of the GP and helped push the GP along to its draft. If it wasnt for the subcommittees, we would not have come this far as we have today.

8. Do you think the number of GPAC members were:

just right

9. Why?

25 seemed to be a fair number. However, I think the ideal should have been somewhere between 15 to 25 people. The more people you have, the more it can become out of control with opinions raised, etc. Too few of people, and nothing gets accomplished.

10. What could have been improved about the GPAC?

The length of the meetings. the agenda size-- it seems as if we always had big agendas, which caused long meetings. In that case, I think if the city knew that the it was a full agenda, then I think the city should have split up the meetings into two separate meetings and not one huge meeting.

11. What would you not change about GPAC?

The people... The staff.... the consultants were great..

12. Do you have any additional comments?

No Response

Individual Responses

1. What was it about the GPAC that got your interest in applying?

City Councilperson encouraged me.

2. Would you apply to serve on the GPAC if it came up again?

Yes

3. Why or why not?

I liked having some input into the direction the City is going. Although the time commitment was challenging.

4. Were you satisfied with the role GPAC played in the General Plan process?

No

5. Why or why not?

I think that staff directed our decisions and that we didn't always have a voice although we were led to believe we had a voice in the process.

6. Were you satisfied with the roles of the GPAC Subcommittees?

No

7. Why or why not?

The housing subcommittee played an important role but the suggestions were not followed. Staff blamed the EIR for the housing element and did not include the suggestion to take the mixed income ordinance city-wide.

8. Do you think the number of GPAC members were:

just right

9. Why?

Seemed like a good diverse group that represented all areas of the city and the different jobs.

10. What could have been improved about the GPAC?

Taking the GPAC input seriously and including it in the staff recommendations. I don't think this was always the case.

11. What would you not change about GPAC?

Food being offered.

12. Do you have any additional comments?

Thanks for the opportunity!

Individual Responses

1. What was it about the GPAC that got your interest in applying?

I was president of ESIA, and a long-time board member, and thus interested in land use issues

2. Would you apply to serve on the GPAC if it came up again?

No

3. Why or why not?

I am pulling back on going to so many meetings.

4. Were you satisfied with the role GPAC played in the General Plan process?

Yes

5. Why or why not?

The staff interaction was good, and staff was generally very responsive to comment

6. Were you satisfied with the roles of the GPAC Subcommittees?

Yes

7. Why or why not?

see above

8. Do you think the number of GPAC members were:

just right

9. Why?

not sure; a somewhat smaller group might have made meetings more efficient, and increased individual member responsibility

10. What could have been improved about the GPAC?

the chair was very good, but I think a time limit on meetings would have helped focus things.

11. What would you not change about GPAC?

everything else.

12. Do you have any additional comments?

no

Individual Responses

1. What was it about the GPAC that got your interest in applying?

A long time interest in planning generally and a recent experience (the McDonald's at Florin and Riverside) in dealing with a grass roots issue related to planning.

2. Would you apply to serve on the GPAC if it came up again?

Yes

3. Why or why not?

If I had it to do over again, I would certainly choose to apply. I learned a great deal. I was able to contribute materially to linking my community to the involvement in plan development. I think GPAC contributed significantly to the quality of the GP.

4. Were you satisfied with the role GPAC played in the General Plan process?

Yes

5. Why or why not?

I think staff and consultants made continual and serious efforts to provide the GPAC with information and opportunity to influence the GP.

6. Were you satisfied with the roles of the GPAC Subcommittees?

No

7. Why or why not?

The subcommittee on which I served did not function effectively. I just do not think we put sufficient effort into many of our tasks. Answering "yes" or "no" is difficult. I think our outreach efforts were good in some parts of the process. Hearing reports of the other subcommittees persuades me that some did better than mine.

8. Do you think the number of GPAC members were:

just right

9. Why?

I suppose nothing is "just right," but I think the size of the committee and the conduct of the meetings achieved a broad representation of the city's interests that a smaller group could not have accomplished. I think the chair and the participants made it work. I think the members mutually respected the participation rights and opportunities of their colleagues.

10. What could have been improved about the GPAC?

I think two or three extended workshops (5 or 6 hours) would have been valuable at key points in the process. I realize this requires a commitment of time on everybody's part, but if they had been projected far enough in advance, everyone could have adjusted. Do this at well chosen points in the GP development would have overcome the limitations of the evening meetings. I would think these workshops would have to have been scheduled on a weekend. I also think we could have use more analysis of the limitations of the existing GP.

11. What would you not change about GPAC?

Membership. Communication. Effective use of online information. The meeting schedule in general. The relationship of staff and consultants to GPAC.

12. Do you have any additional comments?

Just that I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to serve.

Individual Responses

1. What was it about the GPAC that got your interest in applying?

Getting involved in long-range community planning effort

2. Would you apply to serve on the GPAC if it came up again?

Yes

3. Why or why not?

I am hoping our involvement had an impact

4. Were you satisfied with the role GPAC played in the General Plan process?

Yes

5. Why or why not?

I said "yes" but I would qualify it. I think sometimes City staff (at beginning particularly) didn't seem to embrace a community policy body providing input.

6. Were you satisfied with the roles of the GPAC Subcommittees?

Yes

7. Why or why not?

I think we did a thorough review of relevant docs

8. Do you think the number of GPAC members were:

too many

9. Why?

An unweildy group at times.

10. What could have been improved about the GPAC?

Smaller. Interaction with other bodies (TAC etc). Tightening up the community outreach effort.

11. What would you not change about GPAC?

See previous

12. Do you have any additional comments?

No Response

Individual Responses

1. What was it about the GPAC that got your interest in applying?

Being able to provide a perspective and offer insight to the process

2. Would you apply to serve on the GPAC if it came up again?

Yes

3. Why or why not?

Educational and proved to be a very productive and successful process

4. Were you satisfied with the role GPAC played in the General Plan process?

Yes

5. Why or why not?

Staff recognized that the community input into the process is a very integral part on providing community awareness and making sure that all side of community needs are recognized.

6. Were you satisfied with the roles of the GPAC Subcommittees?

Yes

7. Why or why not?

Provided detail input into the process

8. Do you think the number of GPAC members were:

just right

9. Why?

Because it worked from my perspective

10. What could have been improved about the GPAC?

Having GPAC participant understand that while we are in thei together ther are limitations dealing with public input

11. What would you not change about GPAC?

Nothing

12. Do you have any additional comments?

None except thank you to all GPAC members and Staff for seeing this through to the successful conclusion

Individual Responses

1. What was it about the GPAC that got your interest in applying?

Understanding, influence and keeping abreast of the General Plan direction.

2. Would you apply to serve on the GPAC if it came up again?

No

3. Why or why not?

The day the GPAC met ended up a poor night for my schedule.

4. Were you satisfied with the role GPAC played in the General Plan process?

Yes

5. Why or why not?

I liked the oversight of the process and the staff interaction. Any thing more would have been too intrusive to the work done by staff.

6. Were you satisfied with the roles of the GPAC Subcommittees?

Yes

7. Why or why not?

Provided adequate oversight to specific areas. Like the smaller group.

8. Do you think the number of GPAC members were:

too many

9. Why?

The large amount of people on the committee made the meetings go much to long. Some members did not really say much. I did not like the venues either because of the size.

10. What could have been improved about the GPAC?

reduced GPAC Size. Better meeting room. Staff consistency or less turnover.

11. What would you not change about GPAC?

Staff interaciton. Subcommittees worked well. Communication of what was comming next at future meetings.

12. Do you have any additional comments?

No Response

Individual Responses

1. What was it about the GPAC that got your interest in applying?

Using my skills and time to contribute to shaping the future of the community.

2. Would you apply to serve on the GPAC if it came up again?

No

3. Why or why not?

I felt like the planning staff pretty much did all the legwork (and thus ran the show) and that the GPAC members really had little say in shaping the ultimate product. My participation seemed like a formality.

4. Were you satisfied with the role GPAC played in the General Plan process?

No

5. Why or why not?

See above.

6. Were you satisfied with the roles of the GPAC Subcommittees?

No

7. Why or why not?

What rules?

8. Do you think the number of GPAC members were:

just right

9. Why?

Need adequate representation of the city's interests.

10. What could have been improved about the GPAC?

I think future GPAC members should be compensated and more involved in drafting the actual plan.

11. What would you not change about GPAC?

Suzanne did a great job organizing the project.

12. Do you have any additional comments?

Chairman Yee also did a good job maintaining decorum.

Individual Responses

1. What was it about the GPAC that got your interest in applying?

It was an opportunity to participate in defining the future of the City.

2. Would you apply to serve on the GPAC if it came up again?

No

3. Why or why not?

The individual participant is important, not the experience.

4. Were you satisfied with the role GPAC played in the General Plan process?

Yes

5. Why or why not?

It had the attention of staff, consultants, commissions, council, and community.

6. Were you satisfied with the roles of the GPAC Subcommittees?

Yes

7. Why or why not?

They allowed the GPAC to sufficiently review and discuss the elements within the time constraints.

8. Do you think the number of GPAC members were:

just right

9. Why?

Less may not have provided enough diversity, and more would have been time consuming and a drain on member's energy and focus.

10. What could have been improved about the GPAC?

Three-person subcommittees meeting without time conflict of other subcommittees.

11. What would you not change about GPAC?

The composition of the committee.

12. Do you have any additional comments?

No Response

Individual Responses

1. What was it about the GPAC that got your interest in applying?

Growth of Sacramento; to minimize sprawl.

2. Would you apply to serve on the GPAC if it came up again?

Yes

3. Why or why not?

I would consider another appointment to GPAC because of my long standing interest in the development of Sacramento.

4. Were you satisfied with the role GPAC played in the General Plan process?

Yes

5. Why or why not?

Under the constraints of an advisory committee, GPAC exerted as much influence as possible.

6. Were you satisfied with the roles of the GPAC Subcommittees?

Yes

7. Why or why not?

Sub-Committees were vital to GPAC's ability to intelligently review, evaluate and make recommendations on the issues brought to GPAC.

8. Do you think the number of GPAC members were:

too many

9. Why?

Difficult to maintain the interest of members for four years. Thereby, creating concern for achieving a quorum at each meeting. Lack of participation by some members. Smaller group might have been more effective.

10. What could have been improved about the GPAC?

Provide clear understanding of advisory role. Early outreach role of GPAC was not clearly understood by all members.

11. What would you not change about GPAC?

The interest of members in the issue of growth and the General Plan generated some valuable discussions for Staff consideration.

12. Do you have any additional comments?

At four years, the process took too long. However, the General Plan covered all the areas of concern and is consistent with the Guiding Visions and Principles.

Individual Responses

1. What was it about the GPAC that got your interest in applying?

To able to apply my planning background and practice in shaping the future of Sacramento.

2. Would you apply to serve on the GPAC if it came up again?

No

3. Why or why not?

I felt that I served two terms on the GPAC, given the extended project schedule. Overall, it was a good experience; but I would prefer to participate in other areas and organizations in the future.

4. Were you satisfied with the role GPAC played in the General Plan process?

Yes

5. Why or why not?

I felt that GPAC played a significant role in the General Plan Update process. Most of the GPAC members were very engaged and passionate about the issues being addressed by the GP.

6. Were you satisfied with the roles of the GPAC Subcommittees?

Yes

7. Why or why not?

The subcommittees allowed for more detailed and focused analysis of the specific elements.

8. Do you think the number of GPAC members were:

just right

9. Why?

The number of GPAC members were fairly representative of the city.

10. What could have been improved about the GPAC?

I felt that some GPAC dominated the meetings; so I would recommend a more orderly discussion within a certain time limit.

11. What would you not change about GPAC?

The representative composition of the GPAC.

12. Do you have any additional comments?

It was an educational and rewarding experience.

Individual Responses

1. What was it about the GPAC that got your interest in applying?

my involvement with Planning Academy

2. Would you apply to serve on the GPAC if it came up again?

Yes

3. Why or why not?

like voting, don't complain unless you contribute to the solution

4. Were you satisfied with the role GPAC played in the General Plan process?

Yes

5. Why or why not?

we're further along, with neighborhood interests clearly accounted for, than we were before

6. Were you satisfied with the roles of the GPAC Subcommittees?

Yes

7. Why or why not?

no way we could've covered all the ground effectively otherwise, and the subcommittee members did show sincere commitment and products delivered were excellent

8. Do you think the number of GPAC members were:

just right

9. Why?

need good cross-section of representation, without shorting any one group. good dialogue resulted.

10. What could have been improved about the GPAC?

replace those who don't show up. + ensure the Contractor and/or City staff have systems tools that enable quick visualization of concepts, transitions, height impacts, FAR impacts, etc. to foster better comprehension and common views among GPAC members.

11. What would you not change about GPAC?

Bus tour at the beginning, Chairman Yee, city staff commitment to the process, fair dialogue every step of the way... the list goes on.

12. Do you have any additional comments?

thanks for the opportunity - keep us informed. what about five (5) year updates - are we involved?