

GRANTS – The City of Grants will conduct a public meeting May 24 at the City Hall Council Chambers beginning at 6 pm. The City and consultants will give a brief presentation on the draft plan. They will ask participants to express their level of support for the plan's draft recommendations and to help further refine the recommendations.

Since October 2016, the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee has worked on the plan with assistance from consultants Architectural Research Consultants (ARC). Activities included distributing a community survey in city utility bills in January and February 2017. The draft plan can be downloaded on the city's web page at www.cityofgrants.net.

The draft plan is a complete update of the plan adopted by City Council in 2007. It contains an implementation plan stating recommended actions, a city assessment and existing conditions chapter, and detailed plan elements for:

Land use

Economic development

Facilities

Recreation, trails and open space

Utilities

Water

Hazards mitigation

Transportation

Housing

Paul Peña, Project Manager for the City, said: “From the community survey, we learned there is overwhelming support for making Grants an outdoor recreational destination, improving sidewalks and fixing streets. These are some of the recommendations that we further researched and developed in the comp plan.”

The plan incorporates key recommendations from the recent Metropolitan Redevelopment Area (MRA) Master Plan for the downtown. The plan also discusses branding Grants in preparation for its emergence into outdoor recreation, creating new trails and other recreational amenities, improving parks, and erecting wayfinding signs for the Continental Divide Trail.

Code enforcement, clean-ups and demolitions were also important subjects identified for the plan in the community survey and by the steering committee. The plan recommends updates to the land use code, including changes to the home-based business conditional use permits, creation of a downtown zone district, specific landscaping requirements for large commercial uses, local regulation of medical cannabis, and incentives to encourage growth in mixed-use commercial and residential priority nodes and districts in the city.

Economic development recommendations include advancing Grants as a community for retirement, for manufacturing and logistics businesses, and “downtown pop-up days.”

The comprehensive plan is an official public document adopted by the City of Grants as a policy guide to decisions about the physical development of the community over the ensuing 20 to 30 years.

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