



**TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS  
MINUTES OF THE  
STRATEGIC PLANNING ADVISORY COMMISSION  
SEPTEMBER 25, 2019**

**AGENDA ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER**

A public meeting of the Strategic Planning Advisory Commission was convened and called to order by Vice Chair Peter Bordow at 4:06 p.m., Wednesday, September 25, 2019 in the Council Chambers at Town Hall, located at 16705 East Avenue of the Fountains, Fountain Hills, Arizona.

**AGENDA ITEM #2 – ROLL CALL**

Present at roll call were Vice Chair Peter Bordow, Commissioners Gerard Bisceglia, John W. Craft, Jr., Gerry Friedel, Cynthia Magazine and Chad Bernick. Commissioner John McHugh attended by phone. Staff present were Town Manager Grady Miller and Executive Assistant Angela Padgett-Espiritu.

**AGENDA ITEM #3 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

No one spoke at the Call to the Public.

**AGENDA ITEM #4 – CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING THE JUNE 26, 2019 MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioner Craft, Jr. MOVED to approve the June 26, 2019 Meeting Minutes; Commissioner Bisceglia SECONDED the motion, which CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY by those present.

**AGENDA ITEM #5 – INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONER CHAD BERNICK**

Vice Chair Bordow welcomed and introduced New Commissioner Bernick. Commissioner Bernick shared a brief background with the Commission.

**AGENDA ITEM #6 – CONSIDERATION OF SELECTION AND APPROVAL OF COMMISSIONER TERMS**

Town Manager Miller MOVED to TABLE Agenda Item #6 until the October 23, 2019 meeting; Vice Chair Bordow SECONDED the motion, which CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY by those present.

**AGENDA ITEM #7 – CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTING A COMMISSION CHAIR AND/OR A VICE CHAIR**

Commissioner Magazine MOVED to appoint John Craft, Jr. as the Commission Chair, Commissioner Bisceglia SECONDED the motion, which CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY by those present. Commissioner Bisceglia MOVED to appoint Peter Bordow as the Commission Vice Chair, Commissioner Magazine SECONDED the motion, which CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY by those present.

**AGENDA ITEM #8 – UPDATE FROM DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR ON PROGRESS OF THE 2020 GENERAL PLAN**

Development Services Director Wesley updated the Commission on the progress of the 2020 General Plan. Director Wesley reported on the General Plan's important dates and timelines: (attached)

- First draft of the 2020 General Plan is due November 2019 and will be reviewed and discussed at the Public Open House on November 20, 2019
- Final plan document will be available February 2020
- Town Council approval on June 2020
- Voter approval on November 2020
- Detailed Draft of General Plan timeline (attached)

Director Wesley briefed the Commission on the General Plan's commitment and vision, along with the overarching principle of the General Plan (see attached) that supports the vision of Fountain Hills as a "Thriving Community" through the integration of neighborhoods, environment and economy.

**AGENDA ITEM #9 – CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A DATE CHANGE OR CANCELLATION OF THE NOVEMBER 20, 2019 COMMISSION MEETING DUE TO THE GENERAL PLAN 2020 UPDATE MEETING**

Commissioner Magazine MOVED to approve cancellation of the November 20, 2019 Meeting; Commissioner Friedel SECONDED the motion, which CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY by those present.

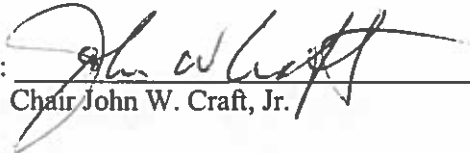
**AGENDA ITEM #10 – DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSED NEXT STEPS FOR ADDRESSING 2020 STRATEGIC PLAN**

Commission will discuss at a future meeting; the next steps and timeline for addressing the 2020 Strategic Plan and will provide an outline of the process used for addressing the 2017 Strategic Plan.

**AGENDA ITEM #11 – CONSIDERATION OF ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Magazine MOVED to adjourn at 5:05 p.m. Commissioner McHugh, SECONDED the motion, which CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY by those present.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING ADVISORY COMMISSION**

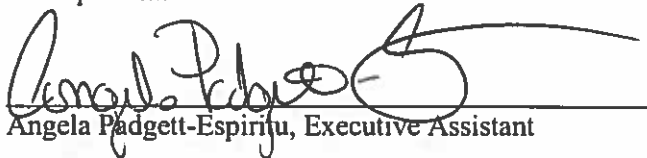
BY:   
Chair John W. Craft, Jr.

Prepared by:   
Angela Padgett-Espiritu, Executive Assistant

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Session held by the Strategic Planning Advisory Commission of Fountain Hills on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of September 2019. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 7<sup>th</sup> day of October 2019.

  
Angela Padgett-Espiritu, Executive Assistant



## **IMPORTANT GENERAL PLAN DATES**

### **PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE**

November 20, 2019 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Fountain Hills Community Center

### **FINAL PLAN DOCUMENT AVAILABLE**

February, 2020

### **TOWN COUNCIL APPROVAL**

June, 2020

### **VOTER APPROVAL**

November, 2020

## **CONTACT US**



[www.fh.az.gov/generalplan2020](http://www.fh.az.gov/generalplan2020)



[www.facebook.com/TownofFountainHills](https://www.facebook.com/TownofFountainHills)



[www.twitter.com/fhazgov](https://www.twitter.com/fhazgov)



# FOUNTAIN HILLS GENERAL PLAN 2020 UPDATE

## DRAFT GENERAL PLAN

How do we integrate neighborhoods, the environment and employment to maintain Fountain Hills as a Thriving Community? What are the character areas that make up the Town? What goals and policies are proposed to address character area needs?

Find out the answers to these and many more questions in the draft Fountain Hills General Plan 2020 at:

<http://www.fh.az.gov/generalplan2020>

Your review and input on the draft plan is a valuable part of the process to prepare a Plan that will guide the Town for the next 10 years. Please provide your comments online and/or come to the **Community Open House** on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 6:00 pm at the Fountain Hills Community Center to review and comment on the Plan.

Like to learn more or have questions? Contact John Wesley, AICP, Development Services Director at: [jwesley@fh.az.gov](mailto:jwesley@fh.az.gov), 480-816-5138



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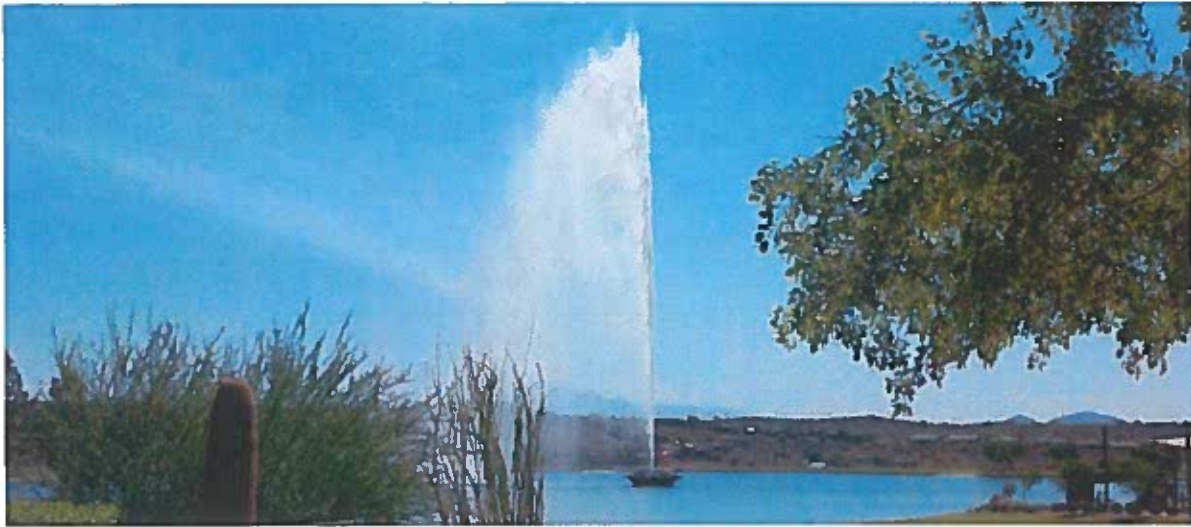
*Known for its impressive fountain, once the tallest in the world, Fountain Hills borders the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, and Scottsdale, Arizona.*

## Fountain Hills: Your Future Awaits

### **A Memorable Oasis**

Fountain Hills is famous for the spectacular projection of its signature fountain, which can be viewed from many vantage points within and outside the Town. The fountain is one of the tallest continuously operating fountains in the world. The Town is also renowned for its preservation of the natural desert, its abundant wildlife, scenic qualities and dark skies.





One of Fountain Hills' most valuable assets is its natural beauty. The Town's scenic views and desert terrain provide for a wide range of outdoor activities including hiking, biking, and golf. Fountain Hills contains some of the more challenging and picturesque golf courses in the State of Arizona. Its dark skies provide opportunities for star gazing.

Fountain Hills was named by *Phoenix Magazine* as the best place to live in the Valley of the Sun and was cited as "a welcome oasis on the outskirts of a metropolis." The small-town charm, lakeside, Town Center, relaxed desert lifestyle, lush desert landscapes and diverse landforms, public art, and an idyllic location at the foothills of a picturesque mountain setting overlooking Fountain Park, make Fountain Hills an oasis.

A step away from the bustling Phoenix Metropolitan area, Fountain Hills' aesthetics and natural desert setting creates a desirable environment for a variety of lifestyles. Artists, professionals, retirees, singles, new families, and permanent and seasonal residents call this world apart home.

## Fountain Hills Community Speaks

As part of the community involvement process, conducted at early stages of the planning process, the community shared the values and aspirations summarized herein.

*At Fountain Hills, we celebrate our environment by living in harmony with our desert setting. Under Arizona sun and dark starry skies, our mountainous and urban surroundings provide adventure and inspiration. We celebrate our culture by embracing neighbors and traditions, both old and new, creating a welcoming, safe, and enjoyable community together. The knowledge and experiences we share across generations from varied backgrounds encourages innovation.*

*We celebrate our quality of life by supporting the local spirit with global connections. Our ability to be resourceful allows our economy to be resilient and innovative. Informed and insightful, we create opportunities. Our small town embodies both simplicity and advancement, looking to the future with the promise that we will continue to thrive in sustainable ways.*

## Our Commitment

As part of this General Plan, we embrace a positive outlook, get actively involved and continue to take the necessary steps to support our community and our vision. As Fountain Hills grows, we:

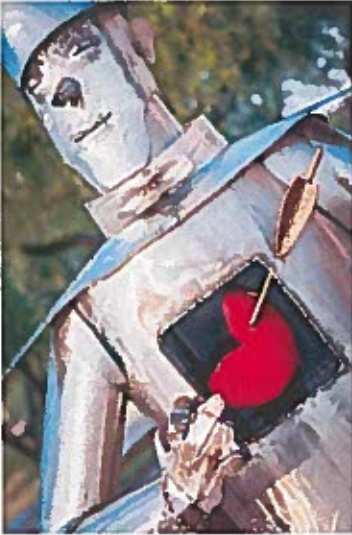
- *Sustain the quality of life, vitality, and distinct charm of our Town;*
- *Maintain the delicate balance of land uses that make the Town a desirable place to live, work, enjoy and visit.*
- *Further enrich the natural, built, and social environments that make the Town unique;*
- *Support existing businesses and continue to attract businesses that stimulate the Town's economy; and*
- *Provide recreational and resort opportunities to strengthen the Town's reputation as a premier desert destination.*



*Town Center Main Gateway at Avenue of the Fountains and Saguaro Boulevard*



## Setting the Stage



Of all the destinations in the northern Sonoran Desert, Fountain Hills is one of the most attractive. The physical beauty, climate, and unique charm of Fountain Hills are known throughout the Phoenix Metropolitan region and the state. In Fountain Hills, the vision for the future is multi-faceted. The Town must strive to preserve the delicate balance between its natural, built, and social environments. A goal of the General Plan is to guide development and redevelopment in a manner that maintains and enhances the qualities that make Fountain Hills a special and unique place.

Fountain Hills is a product of its relationship with its surrounding natural environment. The expansive desert terrain contributes to the Town's desirable warm climate; the mountains provide a dramatic visual backdrop. The proximity to metropolitan Phoenix, combined with its small-Town charm and desert setting, is a primary reason that Fountain Hills has become a popular destination.

Today, Fountain Hills not only prides itself on its sought-after amenities, but also on its safe, pleasant, and tranquil neighborhoods, its thriving natural, built, and social environment, and its attractive, enjoyable, and memorable public spaces. Fountain Hills offers many major amenities typically found in cities with much larger populations, such as the Fountain Hills Community Center, the Fountain Hills Museum, Fountain Park, the Botanical Gardens, a thriving Town Center, resorts, and a broad range of high-quality public services. Open space comprises almost half of the City's total area and provides treasured natural recreation opportunities and wild habitat.

## Our Vision

Picture an inviting desert oasis in the Phoenix metropolitan region, a place where:

- Native desert vegetation, topography, and natural resources are valued and preserved
- Distant mountains by day and countless stars by night offer a magical setting
- Neighbors and visitors gather at special events and festivals
- Unique recreation, dining, and shopping options abound
- Innovation and creativity deliver meaningful employment options to a well-educated, diverse population
- A variety of housing options are available in safe, quiet, pleasant, and enjoyable neighborhoods

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*Fountain Hills...  
Your Future Awaits!*

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## Fountain Hills Overarching Principle

One overarching principle supports Fountain Hills' Vision: Carefully and thoughtfully integrating neighborhoods, environment (built, natural and social) and economy to maintain a thriving community. This principle seamlessly brings together the places we live, work, shop, go to school, and recreate in a viable and sustainable manner.



# DRAFT

## General Plan timeline

Project Management Team meeting	May 16, 2019
Project Management Team meeting	June 20, 2019
Project Management Team meeting	July 18, 2019
Consultant provides first draft of Vision and Land Use	August 5, 2019
Project Management Team meeting	August 15, 2019
Technical Advisory Team meeting	August 21, 2019
Consultant provides first draft of 3 chapters	September 9, 2019
Status updates to Town Council and P&Z	September 17 & 19, 2019
Project Management Team meeting	September 19, 2019
Technical Advisory Team meeting	September 25, 2019
Consultant provides first draft of remaining chapters	October 7, 2019
Project Management Team meeting	October 17, 2019
Technical Advisory Team meeting	October 23, 2019
Consultant provides consolidated first draft Plan	November 4, 2019
Stakeholder meeting to review draft Plan	Week of November 11, 2019
Community workshop to review draft Plan	Week of November 11, 2019
Project Management Team meeting	November 21, 2019
Status update to Town Council and P&Z	December 3 and 12, 2019
Revised draft plan for TAC review	December 16, 2019
Project Management Team meeting	December 19, 2019
Project Management Team meeting/ TAC comments to consultant team	January 16, 2020
Final draft plan submitted	February 3, 2020
Notice of 60-day review period	February 12, 2020
Stakeholder meeting to review Final draft Plan	Week of February 17, 2020
P&Z Commission review and public input on GP	March 5 & 19, 2020
P&Z Commission hearing recommendation on GP	April 16, 2020
Town Council public hearing	May 19, 2020

# DRAFT

Town Council approve GP, call election	June 2, 2020
120 day notice to County	July 6, 2020
Information pamphlet to vendor	July 6, 2020
105 day requirement – ballot language	July 21, 2020
Pro/Con Arguments	
Publication of notice	June 24, July 8, July 22, 2020
Submission period	July 6 – August 5, 2020
Deadline @ 5 pm	August 5, 2020
Pamphlet sent to voters	NLT September 29, 2020
General Election date	November 3, 2020

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