

MEMORANDUM

To: Regional Plan Citizen Advisory Committee

From: Eva Putzová

CC: Bob Caravona, Bill Towler, David Wessel, Erika Mazza, Jim Cronk, John Aber, Kimm Sharp, Mark Sawyers, Roger Eastman, Susan Pratt, Tiffany Antol

Date: 7/2/2009

Re: Adding sustainability as a separate plan element and identifying sustainability as the number one guiding principle for the Regional Plan.

Dear Fellow Committee Members,

I would like to propose that we vote on

1. adding sustainability as a separate plan element and
2. identifying sustainability as the number one guiding principle for the Regional Plan.

While the Arizona Revised Statutes do not mandate sustainability to be discussed in its own section, I believe—and the public comments available to us so far suggest—that this is an important value to our community, deserving a special attention from this advisory committee.

I view the Regional Plan as the framework for all public policies and programs as well as a consulting tool to the City Council, the Board of Supervisors, and other governmental as well as non-governmental agencies. As such it should provide a clear identification of priorities, especially when addressing conflicting interests.

First I believe we need to define sustainability and here is my suggestion:

“Sustainability is the ability of a community to meet its needs for energy, water, food, shelter, medicine and other essential elements of human life without fossil fuels and without compromising the integrity of local ecosystems. Sustainability includes economic, social, cultural, and ecological resilience.”

I propose that the Sustainability Element addresses the following dimensions including:

- **Sustainable development** as a long-term stewardship of community resources, ensuring that present actions do not erode the basis for future prosperity. The Flagstaff community ought to promote development that enhances both ecological vitality AND economic capacities of ALL its residents to attain affordable housing, living wages jobs that support families, the full range of basic human services such as education and health care, as well as a rich array of public goods such as mass transportation, public spaces, public art, urban trails, etc.

- **Cultural sustainability:** The greater Flagstaff region is home to a diverse and rich array of cultures - from those who have lived here for many centuries to those who have just arrived. Our community ought to promote policies that enable the respect, flourishing, cooperation, and creative interaction between the diverse cultures in our region.
- Redefining **prosperity**, weighing quality of life, community character, and biodiversity of the natural world alongside economic considerations.
- **Relocalization** as a concept of building community's resilience and self-reliance—in other words supporting local businesses, establishing local food and renewable energy systems¹.

Sustainable development ultimately hinges upon our community's capacity to cultivate ethical and ecological awareness in future generations which must permeate our educational system at all levels and the plan should address that as well.

¹ More at <http://www.transitionbouldercounty.org>.