

City of Las Vegas

AGENDA MEMO

CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE: JULY 2, 2008
DEPARTMENT: PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
ITEM DESCRIPTION: GPA-27004 - APPLICANT/OWNER: CITY OF LAS VEGAS

**** CONDITIONS ****

The Planning Commission (7-0 vote) and staff recommend APPROVAL.

**** STAFF REPORT ****

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The request is to adopt the School Facilities Element, thereby incorporating it into the City of Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan.

The School Facilities Element is intended to accomplish the following:

- To state goals, objectives and policies and influence planning and implementation of a public school system;
- To compile a comprehensive listing and description of public school facilities and services available in the city;
- To describe the existing public school systems components and amenities;
- To analyze short and long-term goals and priorities for public school system enhancement, including ancillary facilities and amenities;
- To describe the city's role in facilitating public schools;
- To evaluate the effectiveness and potential benefit of land use tools in school site design and planning;
- To identify strategies/actions to enhance the city's role in coordinating school site design and planning with the Clark County School District and other governmental entities.

The preparation and adoption of the School Facilities Element is an important step in achieving the city's priority to create, integrate, and manage orderly and sustainable development and growth of our community, as called for in the Strategic Plan.

The School Facilities Element is compliant with NRS 278.160, which requires cities with a population of 400,000 or greater to adopt a school facilities element that shows the general locations of current and future school facilities based on information provided from the appropriate local school district. This element exceeds the requirements of NRS 278.160 by addressing the development of schools from a regional planning context.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

<i>Related Relevant City Actions by P&D, Fire, Bldg., etc.</i>	
04/01/92	City Council adopted the city of Las Vegas General Plan
09/06/00	City Council adopted the city of Las Vegas Master Plan 2020 through ordinance 2000-62
05/22/08	The Planning Commission voted 7-0 to recommend APPROVAL (PC Agenda Item #13/mah).

<i>Neighborhood Meeting</i>	
03/24/08	Public meeting held at Mirabelli Community Center
03/25/08	Public meeting held at Centennial Hills Community Center
03/26/08	Public meeting held at Rafael Rivera Community Center

ANALYSIS

The city of Las Vegas adopted the Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan in September 2000, which included two phases. Phase I of the Master Plan forms the framework for the contents of Phase II: a series of elements; special area plans; and long-term land use designations, including a revised future land use map. School Facilities is among the elements identified for completion during Phase II of the Master Plan project. The element also satisfies NRS requirements for subject matter of a master plan.

The purpose of the School Facilities Element (Element) of the Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan is to establish recommendations and actions for the interaction between city staff with the Clark County School District for schools sited within the city of Las Vegas including the development of a schools master plan through a joint planning effort with the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition as well as establishing a joint planning team between the city of Las Vegas and CCSD to ensure all schools are participating in the Open Door Open Schools Agreement as outlined in the agreement. Additionally, this element identifies code changes in Title 19 that will help ensure better public participation in the siting of schools. A School Facilities Element was not a required or suggested master plan element when the city of Las Vegas General Plan was adopted on April 1, 1992. The School Facilities Element was placed into NRS 278.160 in 1999 and became a required Master Plan Element in 2002. The Master Plan and its elements must be periodically updated to address the evolving nature of growth and development in the city and the needs and desires of its citizens.

The discussion in this element focuses on: background information regarding the Clark County School District and services which they provide; an analysis of existing and future public school locations, enrollment and facilities; an analysis of existing private school locations; and short and long-term plans for school site development improvements.

This element provides a baseline of detailed information that will aid in the decision-making processes that determine the city's funding priorities with respect to school facilities. The School Facilities Element links the broad policies of the Master Plan, and will assist city decision makers and relevant agencies vested with developing and operating school facilities infrastructure and services.

Relationship to the Nevada Revised Statutes

The Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) are the current codified laws of the State of Nevada. The Statutes of Nevada are a compilation of all legislation passed by the Nevada Legislature during a particular Legislative Session. The proposed School Facilities Element conforms to the following Nevada Revised Statute:

NRS 278.160, Subject matter of master plan, requires that the city of Las Vegas prepare and adopt a comprehensive, long-term general plan for the physical development of the city. This document, known as the city of Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan, must also include a School Facilities Element, which includes Showing the general locations of current and future school facilities based upon information furnished by the appropriate local school district.

Relationship to Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan

The city of Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan consists of a series of goals, objectives and policies within its elements. The 2020 Master Plan was approved in September of 2000, and it provides a broad policy structure intended to direct the actions of the city regarding land use and development for the period from 2000 to 2020. The individual elements are intended to provide a more specific direction, through detailed analysis and recommended actions, as to how the city should respond to certain land use issues. The intent of the School Facilities Element is to establish standards, goals, objectives and policies for community and urban design within the city of Las Vegas that will assist with the long range planning efforts of future school development.

The Master Plan policies are organized into seven themes developed by the Master Plan Steering Committee. Realization of these policies requires long-term planning commitments integrated with the strategic plan and Capital Improvement Plan. Some of the themes follow geographic boundaries; Reurbanization (Downtown), Neighborhood Revitalization (central city areas), and Newly Developing Areas (Centennial Hills); others such as Economic Diversity, Cultural Enhancement, Fiscal Management, and Regional Coordination are broad topic areas applicable citywide. Each theme contains goals, objectives, and policies providing broad policy context for that geographic area.

The following goals, objectives, and policies from the Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan provide the policy framework and direction of school development.

Reurbanization

GOAL 1: The Downtown area will emerge as the preeminent hub of business, residential, government, tourism and as a major hub of such activities in the Las Vegas Valley.

OBJECTIVE 1.7: To ensure that educational and training opportunities appropriate to the population and workforce in the Downtown are developed. Such educational opportunities are intended to apply to grades K-12, as well as colleges, universities, and trade and vocational schools.

POLICY 1.7.1: That the city cooperate with regional and private educational institutions to bring education providers, as well as other technical, vocational and other appropriate training providers into Downtown campus locations, while encouraging a diversity of higher education.

Newly Developing Areas

GOAL 3: Newly developing areas of the city will contain adequate educational facilities, and recreational and open space and be linked to major employment centers by mass transit, including buses, and by trails.

OBJECTIVE 3.1: To ensure that new residential subdivisions, with the exception of areas currently designated as rural preservation neighborhoods by Nevada statute, are developed into walkable communities, where reliance on auto trips for convenience shopping and access to education and recreation is minimized, and where development densities support transit.

POLICY 3.1.2: That new residential neighborhoods emphasize pedestrian linkages within the neighborhood, ready access to transit routes, linkages to schools, integration of local service commercial activities within a neighborhood center that is within walking distance of homes in the neighborhood.

OBJECTIVE 3.7: To ensure that educational opportunities for the growing population and workforce in the newly developing areas of the city are developed.

POLICY 3.7.1: That the city cooperate with regional and private educational institutions to bring education providers, as well as other higher educational opportunities, and vocational and technical training, to these outlying areas.

Regional Coordination

GOAL 7: Issues of regional significance, requiring the city of Las Vegas to coordinate with other government entities and agencies within the Valley, will be addressed in a timely fashion.

OBJECTIVE 7.5: To ensure that educational opportunities are fully developed to meet the needs of the city's expanding population.

POLICY 7.5.1: That the city cooperate with the Clark County School District and other public and private institutions to provide appropriate education, including technical, vocational and other training opportunities for local residents.

Relationship to Regional Planning Agency

The Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition (SNRPC) serves as a planning organization consisting of city of Las Vegas, city of North Las Vegas, city of Henderson, city of Boulder City, Clark County, and Clark County School District. The Southern Nevada Regional Policy Plan, adopted by the SNRPC Board on February 11, 2001, incorporates goals and policies associated with regional issues such as land uses, transportation, public facilities, air quality, water quality, and open spaces.

The SNRPCs Regional Policy goals pertaining to public schools within the Public Facilities section of the Southern Nevada Regional Policy Plan reads as follows: Convene an inter-jurisdictional planning committee under the auspices of the Regional Planning Coalition to improve the identification of school sites. Include representatives of the development community on this committee.

Along with the other member agencies of the SNRPC, the city of Las Vegas provides a Suggested Route to School Program which gives a comprehensive, computerized traffic, pedestrian, and bicycle plan for elementary and middle schools. The program involves conducting an annual inventory of school-related traffic control devices within a two-mile radius walking distance for both elementary and middle schools within the city of Las Vegas. These routes are created and updated by the citys Public Works Department.

FINDINGS

The proposed master plan element meets the intent of NRS 278.160 by providing a comprehensive listing of existing schools, their locations and proposed schools. Additionally, this master plan element identifies regional planning issues that have not been fully addressed and incorporates recommendations to rectify the regional planning issues that have yet gone unsolved.

In order to be able to effectuate the requirements of NRS 278.160, the School Facilities Element concludes three recommendations. The recommendations are as follows:

- Facilitate the development of a Clark County Schools Master Plan.
- Amend Title 19 to require a Special Use Permit and Site Development Plan Review for primary and secondary schools within all zoning districts.
- Facilitate the development of planning teams to coordinate with CCSD to improve the utilization of school recreational facilities for local residents.

By effectively carrying out these recommendations through the implementation of the actions listed in the element, the city of Las Vegas will be compliant with the requirements of NRS 278.160.

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS NOTIFIED 15

NOTICES MAILED NEWSPAPER ONLY

APPROVALS 0

PROTESTS 0