PLAN SALT LAKE – DEPARTMENT REVIEW & COMMENTS

Project: PLNPCM2011-00682: Plan Salt Lake – City-wide Vision and Consolidated Policy Document

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Department/Division: Public Utilities
Reviewer: Brad Stewart
Comments Summary: Consider breaking Clean Air and Water into two guiding principles and sections. Water should be a stand along principle or significant portion of the Natural Environment guiding principle section. Emphasis should be on stewardship/the need to protect and manage our natural resources first and access second. Important water related topics should include conservation, ground water protection (not just surface water), stormwater quality, preservation and expansion of watershed protection acreage, secondary water sources. Also include mention of obligation to abide by Clean Water Act and emphasis on riparian corridor preservation and restoration in the initiatives and/or narrative. Additional topics to include somewhere in plan are the importance of our urban forest and the role that street lighting and other streetscape amenities (benches, etc.) play in our urban design/urban environment. Brad will provide data and images for metrics and targets.

Department/Division: Engineering
Reviewer: Jeff Snelling and Lynn Jarman
Comments Summary: Emphasis on preservation and maintenance of existing infrastructure, specifically rights-of-way and roads. Maintenance of existing infrastructure vs. new construction is much more sustainable, cost effective, and enhances quality of life for residents and visitors. Consideration of more durable and higher quality materials upfront to result longer lifecycle of infrastructure, greater longer term savings and more sustainable. Public safety and emergency management (including response time and connectivity/accessibility) are tied directly to our infrastructure therefore a need for well maintained, well connected, and redundancy in networks are crucial for responding to emergencies. Ensuring we adhere to all ADA regulations and that our infrastructure is accessible for people of all backgrounds, ages, abilities, and incomes is a priority. Also important is thinking about how our infrastructure (rights-of-ways, road, trails, etc.) interfaces with and connects neighborhoods and neighboring municipalities. Moving forward, collaborating with other City departments will be a priority (for example, working closely with the Arts Council to integrate embedded art and artistic elements into infrastructure projects of all scales).

Department/Division: Transportation
Reviewer: Robin Hutchenson
Comments Summary: A large number of public comments received were around bicycle and pedestrian amenities and connectivity. Accessible, convenient, and more user friendly public transit is also a priority. Reducing single-occupancy automobile trips and vehicle miles traveled will continue to be an important goal of transportation (and is directly tied to air quality). Moving forward, we will put an increased emphasis on safety. All modes of transportation, including bicycle and pedestrian modes, should be safe and viable transportation options. Mobility and coordinating land use and transportation were also important topics.

Department/Division: Housing
Reviewer: Michael Akerlow
Comments Summary: Need for more affordable housing options citywide. General need for more choice in housing options for all segments of our community – low and very low income, aging populations, families, people of all abilities, etc. Important role that location and neighborhood amenities make including proximity to transit and transportation corridors, services, schools, etc. Need to focus on making housing more affordable and accessible for low and very low income.

Department/Division: Police
Reviewer: Sgt. Fred Ross
Comments Summary: No specific comments were received.

Department/Division: Public Services
Reviewer: Rick Graham, Todd Reese, Lisa Shaffer, and Nancy Monteith
Comments Summary: *See attached comments for additional detail.*
General comments: Language and use of "Open Space" vs. Natural Lands. Meaning of open space is different to different people. Integrate more about parks, natural lands, and open space throughout all of the guiding principles and initiatives. General need to design our parks and public spaces for more flexibility and adaptability. Recreation, use, and sport trends change overtime and we can't always predict what future use demands will be so we need to make our public parks and places adaptable.
Balancing open space protection with accessibility. Consider changing Parks and Open Space to Parks and Recreation or Parks and Natural Lands.

Department/Division: Sustainability
Reviewer: Vicki Bennett, Debbie Lyons, Kate Lohnes
Comments Summary: Important issues to include are climate adaptation throughout the Plan. As a City we need to be prepared for the impacts of climate change and need to plan and incorporate climate change mitigation efforts in all of our future planning efforts. Other topics that will continue to be important are food production, waste reduction, air quality and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Sustainability should be incorporated throughout all of the guiding principles and initiatives. Need to include more about energy use and energy efficiency, reduction in water consumption, and waste diversion.

Department/Division: Arts Council
Reviewer: Karen Krieger
Comments Summary: Include more art and culture throughout the different guiding principles and initiatives. Art embedded into City infrastructure projects should be one of the top art/culture priorities moving forward. Need to include an artist on major infrastructure projects and also incorporate artistic elements into project of all scales. Art reinforces neighborhood and community identity and sense of place. Public art should also be used for way finding and should be incorporated to make our places unique – always finding artful ways to reflect our city.

Department/Division: City Council
Reviewer: Councilman Kyle LaMalfa
Comments Summary: The general approach is mostly aligned with the Council resolution passed (2013-33) and is broadly defensible. Appreciated inclusion of clean air & water, and transparency. Topics that need to be included are institutions, cross department & jurisdiction cooperation, and infrastructure. Include more for the general reader about basic purpose of the plan.
For indicators (metrics to measure our success overtime) look for more universal, general national standards that might exist.* Include a page about our extensive outreach strategy.
Per Council comments, Planning researched other possible national measurement options and worked closely with each individual department, including Sustainability and their Sustainability Dashboard, to identify which metrics were the most relevant for Salt Lake City specifically.

Department/Division: EMS
Reviewer: Cory Lyman
Comments Summary: EMS providing the following comments:
Guiding principles 1, 6, 10 and 14 are most applicable to Emergency management and our programs. I don't have any specific comments.

Department/Division: RDA
Reviewer: DJ Baxter
Comments Summary: No specific comments were received.

Department/Division: Airport
Reviewer: Allen McCandless
Comments Summary: No specific comments were received.

Comments on Plan Salt Lake
PPL 06.20.2014

Below are PPL comments on the Plan Salt Lake. We wanted to include some thoughts related to parks and natural lands for each principle. I have also included our original redlines on the hard copy document for your reference.

We would like to meet with the Plan Salt Lake team to go discuss the comments and in particular define the use of the words: open space, natural lands, and parks and how that may influence some of the text in several of the guiding principles.

General comments on the plan:
What is the role of the green network of parks, natural lands and urban forestry in the development of a livable city? How do we define each one of these elements and what are the implications?

- **Open Space**: The generally accepted definition refers to all open areas including developed parks, natural lands and even streetscapes. Salt Lake City, however, has used the term "Open Space" in a very narrow sense of the word in the code to refer to lands that are purchased/owned and intended to remain in a natural state in perpetuity. PPL staff would like to see the word "natural lands" to be used for this narrower definition in the code. (Salt Lake City Code Title 2.94 definition)
- **Natural Lands**: Natural lands are lands that are primarily in an undeveloped state with natural vegetation and the intent is for them to remain in this state. There should be an emphasis placed on protection and conservation of our natural lands that include riparian corridors, foothills and interstitial space that are predominantly in an undeveloped state with native vegetation. Passive recreation is appropriate for these areas.
- **Developed Parks**: Parks are developed and maintained to support high levels of use for active and passive recreation Both active and passive recreation is appropriate for these areas.(Salt Lake City Code Title 2.94 definition)
- **Recreation:** Includes both active and passive recreation.
- **Trails**: Trails may go through parks and natural lands.

Guiding Principles
6/ Protect and Conserve the natural environment
- Parks and recreation contribute to quality of life. Park systems should strive to conserve historic and natural landscapes of significance, provide access and social equity, and contribute to a community's health and wellness.
- Developed parks need to adapt to changing community demographics and recreation needs while natural lands protect sensitive landscapes and provide ecosystem services resulting in quality of life and economic benefits.

Following are comments specific to each guiding principle:

1/Neighborhoods

2040 Target
- Parks located within ¼ mile walking distance from every household

General note for text:
- Parks and natural lands enhance community identity and character, provide places for social interactions and contribute to a walkable neighborhood.

Initiatives
- Improve the green infrastructure (parks, natural lands, urban forestry) of neighborhoods by incorporating best management practices to manage for stormwater in our parks and streetscapes as well as creating a connected walkable environment.

2/Growth

2040 Target

General note for text:
- As we urbanize and create more walkable communities the need for a well connected open space network also increases and supports quality of life. Parks and open space should be

Initiatives

3/Housing

2040 Target

General note for text:
- Housing should be considered as a bundle of good and that includes access to a well connected and adequate parks and recreation facilities.
- As communities become denser it is important to not only look at proximity but also quantity and type of parks and open space provided.
- We should have established level of services standards that address type, proximity, quality and quantity of open space per population.

Initiatives

Metrics
- Provide XX acres/1,000 people of park space.

4/Transportation &Mobility

2040 Target

General note for text:
- Green infrastructure can be incorporated into our transportation network. Incorporating surface storm water etc…..

Initiatives
Metrics

5/ Clean Air and Water

- Coordinate with Public Utilities on this principle
- Refer to the Sustainability Plan

2040 Targets:
- Protect sensitive landscapes
- Do we want to include something about our riparian areas in this section? These need protection too as they are easily degraded by overuse. These areas are some of our most contentious public spaces in the city.

Baseline Numbers
- Protected watershed acres

6/ Natural environment

Change the tag line under natural environment. Should be more like
"Conservation and preservation of the natural environment"

Plans to review include:
- Riparian corridor overlay
- Foothill protection zone
- Low land conversation district
- Critical lands inventory

2040 Targets
- Increase XX of critical lands protection
- XX feet of daylighted streams
- XX restored natural lands
- XX acres of land owned

Narrative description
- What is our tool to recover and recapture damaged areas by encroachment?

Initiatives
Move items 1,3,4,5,6,7 to 5- clean air and water
1. (2) Protect critical natural wildlife habitat, water-sheds, and ecosystems.
2. Develop a natural lands management plan
3. Provide adequate funding and staff to maintain natural lands
4. Increase education and stewardship of natural lands
5. Reduce habitat fragmentation
6. Promote land use and management practices that steward high quality habitat, water quality, and other ecosystem services.
7. Fund restoration and stewardship activities

Metrics:

- Percent cover of noxious weeds
- Percent land (of total city) protected as natural lands

Baseline numbers
- XX acres of natural land protected
- XX acres of natural land owned

7/ Recreation and Parks

2040 Targets:
- XX acres / 1,000 people
- 100 % population within ¼ mile walking distance to a park

Narrative
- Move first paragraph to natural environment section
- Keep send paragraph
- We are "Salt Lake City's Parks and Public Lands Division"
- …. Thousands of acres of natural lands
- Move second half of this paragraph to 8/ Beautiful City " These lands not only provide beautiful vistas and critical habitat…. Investment in our City."

Initiatives
- Move # 1 to natural environment
- Protect view shed out of city and into open spaces in urban core and on urban wildland interface
- Protect and enhance existing parks, recreational facilities and trails. Enhance parks to allow for higher use and modifications.

Metrics
- XX acres / 1,000 people
- X % population within ¼ mile walking distance to a park

Baseline numbers:
- XX acres / 1,000 people
- X % population within ¼ mile walking distance to a park

8/Beautiful City

2040 Target
- Vibrant public parks and plazas (level of public engagement)

Narrative
- People move here for the natural beauty that surrounds us. Where does that fit into this section? How can we embody the natural environment and access to it in our built form?

- Our urban forest, parks and streetscapes create a green network that enhances the livability of the city. As communities densify, our need for urban open spaces and contact with nature also increases. The green network provides many ecosystem benefits including cleaner air, stormwater management, and places of refuge.

Initiatives
- Develop landscapes that reflect our geographic region and connect us to the wider landscape
- Create opportunities to connect with nature in our urban areas by enhancing developed landscapes with wildlife habitat
- Reinforce the development of a connected green network of urban open spaces and forest that also accommodates active transportation and provides contact with nature.
- Protect, maintain, and expand the City's urban forest and green network, including street trees.

Metrics
- Views and access to nature
- XX acres parks/1000 population
- PPL maintenance budget (indicative of quality improvements and level of care)

Baseline numbers
- How many people move here for natural environment
- Engaged citizens, popularity of urban public spaces, feeling of safety and comfort
- % volunteerism

9/Preservation

2040 Targets
- Preservation of historic and ecological significant landscapes.

Narrative
- How do the landscapes you refer to relate to the natural environment?
- Natural landscapes as well as and designed and historic landscapes contribute to the community character and sense of place

Initiatives
Metrics
Baseline numbers

10/Equity

2040 Targets
- Access to open space, trails and recreational facilities

Initiatives
Metrics
Baseline Numbers

2040 Targets:

Narrative:

- Urban parks and the city as art
- Parks as a place for public art
- Parks as a venue for cultural activities
- Temporary versus permanent art in the public realm

Initiatives:

Metrics:

Baseline Numbers:

PPL Comments on Plan Salt Lake:

July 29, 2014

7/ Parks & Natural Lands

- This is consistent with our program names. Open Space is a sticky word that means many different things to many different people. Salt Lake City uses the words "open space" in a very narrow way in our ordinances and this could potentially cause confusion.

Guiding Principle: Balancing stewardship and health of parks and natural lands while also cultivating/ encouraging/ supporting active communities and opportunities to connect with nature

Use the words "active community" rather than "recreation":

- The population that wants to recreate in our natural lands is just one facet of the City. There is also the need to get people out and moving in all areas of the city and across all economic scales. Planning and design for "active communities" speaks to all ages, abilities and economic levels.
- Salt Lake City does not have a recreation program. All recreation programming is done by Salt Lake County.

Parks and open space should be accessible and feel safe to encourage use:

- For man the most important aspect is making the parks and open space easily accessible (between ¼ - ½ mile away), well connected – so that when they get there they can easily get to other areas, and safe and welcoming.

Parks, natural lands, and open space should be well connected and form a green infrastructure network:

- We need to emphasize ways to connect our public lands into an integrated whole. To ensure use; paths, trails and parks need to be promoted and maintained. Our open space network should be developed to encourage walking and bicycling to the destination. Well connected networks also offer ecological benefits to communities.

Street trees and park strips are an important component of a pleasing environment and further encourage active communities.

- Park strips and street trees are a key component to making a pleasing environment that further encourages active communities. The urban forest is an important component in a well connected system.
- Trees that can be planted in large contiguous areas are often healthier and grow larger. Larger trees are exponentially more beneficial to our community.

- Developed parks play an important role in providing places for people to gather and celebrate, places for active recreation and team competition, opportunities to connect with nature, find solitude and offer respite from the built environment. Developed parks are designed to sustain heavy use and activities – both active and passive. Their uses may and do change over time to respond to changes in community demographics and interests. Parks contribute to community identify and livability and are often a point of pride for citizens.

Initiatives:

8. Increase the number of street trees and support the development of a healthy urban forest.

Metrics:

Metric: Acres of parks/ 1,000 population

Metric: Acres of natural lands/ 1,000 population

Metric: parks and natural lands located ¼- ½ mile from every residence

Metric: miles of trails/ 1,000 population

Metric: Street trees/ 1,000 population

*Generally there are not established metrics for acres of natural lands. The amount a community has is determined by what is available, what the quality is, and what the values of the community are.