

**TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS
SUMMARY MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING ADVISORY COMMISSION
MARCH 18, 2026**

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Patrick Garman called to order the meeting of the Strategic Planning Advisory Commission at 4:08 p.m.

2. INVOCATION – Moment of Silence

3. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chairman Patrick Garman; Vice Chairman Geoff Yazzetta; Commissioner Paul Smith; Commissioner Joseph Reyes

Members Absent: Commissioner Bernie Hoenle; Commissioner Polly Bonnett; Commissioner Randy Crader

Staff Present: Town Manager Rachael Goodwin and Deputy Town Clerk Angela Padgett-Espiritu

4. STATEMENT OF PARTICIPATION

5. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS BY DIRECTOR

GOODWIN: Provided updates on several Town priorities, including the recent community survey regarding potential street repair bonding, which received strong participation. She noted the council continues to prioritize street improvements and long-term infrastructure planning, including preparation for future lake liner replacement needs. She also shared that FY27 CIP discussions will include downtown renovation projects along Verde River Drive and noted that the upcoming election will bring significant changes to the council next year.

6. PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS, AND RECOGNITIONS

None

7. PRESENTATIONS

None

8. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. **CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:** Approval of the Minutes from the Regular Meeting Held on February 26, 2026.

MOVED BY Vice Chairman Geoff Yazzetta to APPROVE the Minutes of the Regular Meeting Held on February 26, 2026, of the Strategic Planning Advisory Commission Meeting, **SECONDED BY** Commissioner Joseph Reyes
Vote: 4–0 | motion passed unanimously

9. REGULAR AGENDA

a. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:** Future Strategic Plan Signature Strategy – Economic Development.

1. Downtown Planning
2. Outdoor Activities and Tourism
3. Shea Corridor
4. Diversification in Business Development

Discussion focused on the Town’s future strategic plan and economic development priorities, including downtown planning, tourism, the Shea Corridor, and business diversification.

Staff explained that the Town’s updated 2024 Downtown Strategy is already guiding downtown improvements, with efforts focused on accelerating projects over the next five years.

Downtown improvement goals include enhancing walkability, adding sidewalks and lighting, creating gathering spaces and outdoor seating, and improving pedestrian connectivity between downtown, Fountain Park, and surrounding commercial areas.

Commissioners discussed the need for more centrally located public restrooms downtown, particularly for seniors, families, farmers market visitors, and future tourism activity.

Staff highlighted ongoing sidewalk infill projects, enhanced crosswalks, and active transportation planning to improve safety and walkability throughout the community.

Discussion also focused on attracting a wider variety of businesses and industries, including healthcare, biosciences, financial services, startups, professional services, and light assembly/manufacturing.

Staff noted that Fountain Hills is nearing buildout, making redevelopment, revitalization, and zoning flexibility increasingly important for future economic growth opportunities.

Shea Corridor discussions included redevelopment near the Target/Four Peaks area, the future Sprouts development, and efforts to attract additional restaurants and retail uses.

Commissioners emphasized balancing future growth with concerns related to traffic, density, and maintaining the Town's character, while identifying outdoor activities and tourism as key long-term community strengths.

b. UPDATE: from the Commission Work Groups

Vice Chairman Yazzetta provided an update on upcoming community engagement events for gathering public input related to the strategic planning process.

Two community meetings were announced:

Saturday, April 4 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Community Center

Thursday, April 16 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Fountain Hills Unified School District Learning Center.

Staff confirmed coordination with Mike Pelton regarding promotional flyers and outreach efforts.

Vice Chairman Yazzetta noted that outreach would be shared through Town communication channels and the Fountain Hills Unified School District to encourage participation, particularly from school stakeholders.

c. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Consideration of Future Agenda Items Pertaining to the Strategic Plan.

Chair Garman discussed upcoming strategic plan agenda topics, noting that future meetings will focus on the "Quality of Life and Safety" pillar, including tourism and outdoor activities.

Staff recommended coordinating with Angela regarding which department staff should attend future discussions, including Community Services staff, due to their involvement with town events, tourism, and outdoor activities.

Commissioners discussed the strategic plan timeline, with expectations to:

- Continue discussions through April and May
- Hold another workshop in June
- Prepare a draft strategic plan over the summer
- Begin formal review and revisions in the fall
- Target final adoption in early 2027.

Chair Garman also emphasized the importance of community engagement and future outreach efforts as the strategic plan development process continues.

10. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

None

11. COMMISSION DISCUSSION/DIRECTION TO THE DIRECTOR

None

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY Vice Chairman Geoff Yazzetta to **APPROVE** adjourning the meeting of March 18 ,2026, of the Strategic Planning Advisory Commission, **SECONDED** BY Commissioner Joseph Reyes.

Vote: 4–0 | motion passed unanimously

Chairman Patrick Garman adjourned the meeting of the Strategic Planning Advisory Commission at 5:02 PM