

Planning Commission
January 22, 2007

Chairperson Cramer called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

The following members were present: Bill Dorn, Cindy Maas, and James Montgomery. Gordon Liebel was absent. Ken Smith has submitted his letter of resignation and the Mayor has accepted it. Cramer thanked Mr. Smith for all his hard work and time he put into the Planning Commission. Also in attendance were City Administrator Dave Schmidt and Mayor Pat Johnson.

Montgomery moved to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2007 commission meeting. Dorn seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Cramer moved to amend the agenda to change agenda item 3b to be review of the goals, frequently asked questions, maps, comment letter, etc. Montgomery seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Subdivision Regulations:

Cramer stated she is really glad that Administrator Schmidt has been very responsive. The public notice has gone out it was in the paper last week and will be in there again this week.

Cramer went over the table set up for the public forum. Devon will man the head table that will have the poster of goals, and some handouts and the sign in sheet. We will have a table on open space and parks, stormwater detention and streets and alleys. James will be at the open space, Bill and Gordon will be at the stormwater detention and Cindy will do streets and alleys. Lisa didn't have anything assigned she was just going to float but because we don't have Ken anymore, she may sit with Cindy.

The commission then went through the goals they have been working on. Cramer stated she would like to list the goals and then give an example of what we mean by those goals. Montgomery stated he likes the idea of just listing the goals and then when people come up and ask what to you mean by affordability that would prompt discussion. Dorn stated if you have the goals on the poster and then on a sheet of paper the commission could have what the commission's definition of all their goals to use as a cheat sheet and that could also be given as a handout. The goals the commission came up with to have listed on the poster are:

- Citizen Participation
- Preservation of Small Town Character
- Quality of Life
- Connectivity
- Pedestrian Friendly
- Open Space, Parks and Trails
- Affordability/Range of Housing Prices

Variety of Housing Types
Flexible Lot Sizes
Design Standards

The commission then went over each goal to have examples.

Citizen Participation: public meetings, workshops, public hearing, working documents available on website.

Preservation of Small Town Character: create walk able neighborhoods, multi-modal access, preserve view corridors, have open space parks and trails, promote strong local economy.

Quality of Life: preserve view corridors, promote outdoor recreation, hometown atmosphere, breathable air, preservation of natural resources, connectivity.

Connectivity: favoring grid systems, increased public transit with bus stops, trail and safe routes plan, no isolation of neighborhoods.

Pedestrian Friendly: safe routes, ensuring safe access to schools, parks, commercial district and neighborhoods, safe pedestrian access to Highway #410.

Open Space, Parks and Trails: active space, passive space, trail and safe routes plan, open space set aside?

Affordability/Range of Housing Prices: homes for seniors, first time home buyers, allowing flexible lot sizes, housing available for a variety of income levels.

Variety of Housing Types: size and style, one story, two stories, cottage style, no cookie cutter housing, percent of duplexes?

Flexible Lot Sizes: provide affordable, maintain view corridors, preservation of small town character, allows for variety of housing types and sizes.

Design Standards: landscaping, trees, detention ponds, fencing, streets and roads, street lighting, small town character.

The frequently asked question sheets will stay the same other than adding the goals and changing the heading at the top with the date of the public forum.

Cramer stated at the last public meeting she liked the idea of having a comment sheet. She doesn't have a copy of what we had at the last one.

For maps the commission will use the zoning map.

Administrator Schmidt asked if the commission wants pictures of the different types of housing such as ramblers, two stories, cottage housing, etc. Administrator Schmidt asked what about the detention ponds and what the committee has been looking at. Dorn stated regarding the detention ponds, he would be more comfortable telling people what they don't want to see and also they still have questions about ownership. It was decided to use the stormwater detention pond outline with a couple pictures on it to use as a handout. Cramer stated the only other handout she thought might be interesting would be a handout with recommended trees list. As far as she knows this is just a recommended list. Montgomery stated what was talked about was having a tree ordinance and then heard about places that have tree ordinances that have trees that are rotting and because of the ordinance they are not able to remove the trees. Cramer stated why she likes the recommended tree list as a homeowner it is nice to know what trees are good for this area for survivability. Administrator Schmidt stated we can put that with the development guidelines rather than have it in the subdivision regulations. Administrator Schmidt stated you can have it available with the design standards.

Maas stated on the frequently asked question page, at the end of the page with the question on the open space set aside, she doesn't care for the answer. Administrator Schmidt stated what if it says "Many cities have open-space requirements. The community has strongly expressed their appreciation for the natural resources." Everyone was in favor of that.

Mayor Johnson stated we have two letters of intent for desires to be on the Planning Commission. One is Bridget McNassar and the other is Mark Joplin. Mayor Johnson is recommending that someone from the Planning Commission call them and let them know what has been happening and invite them to the public meeting. James will contact Bridget and Lisa will contact Mark.

With nothing further the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 PM.

The next meeting will be our open public forum on February 5, 2007 at 7:00 PM.

Lisa Cramer, Chairperson