

Comprehensive Planning Committee Minutes

February 15, 2023

Present: Chris Cheney, Paula Clark, Jessica Cobb (KVCOG), Greg Durgin, Eric Dyer, Jessica Gorton, Elaine Katz, Greg Leimbach, Matt Nazar

Absent: Jeffrey Carlson, Dennis Price

Jessica G. called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. in person at the Town Office and via Zoom.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greg D. notified the committee that he's been asked by Trails and Conservation Commission to keep them updated on what is happening with the CPC.

MINUTES

Paula moved to accept minutes from the December meeting. Greg D. seconded. Minutes approved unanimously with Matt abstaining due to his absence in January.

OLD BUSINESS

Public Hearings

Eric thanked everyone for their help with the public hearing on Jan. 28, which he said went really well, was well attended and provided good feedback. The first event was also helpful in planning the next meeting, which will be Feb. 25. There is a transcript and photos of the event, which will be posted on the CPC website.

The four topics for the Feb. 25 meeting will be community vision, land use and growth, village areas and development, and open space. Greg volunteered to lead open space. Paula, Matt, Jessica G. and Elaine will also be available. Eric and Jessica C. will also be there.

Elaine asked about publicizing the event, and avenues for that were discussed. Eric said they are considering putting a digital sign at the Transfer Station to alert residents of events.

Schedule

Eric said he is hoping the committee can wrap up the goals and policies sections tonight so that the individual leaders can finish their chapters. The schedule is very tight and extends right up to town meeting. The committee discussed how the policies will be implemented and reviewed the schedule, which includes an additional meeting in March.

Goals and Policies

Jessica C. began displaying the 45 pages of goals and policies she compiled for the committee to review. She said they include all of the elements required by the state as well as what the committee members provided. Many chapters are mostly complete and those reviews were cursory.

This review was not designed to be specific, but some specifics were raised. Elaine raised questions about amenities, access for disabled persons, and funding for improvements and services, such as EMS. Jessica C. noted that there are plenty of grants available. Greg L. suggested an annual reviewing of financing options.

Greg L. and Elaine offered to write up their ideas. Paula raised some questions about what look to be incorrect assignments of who will implement specific policies. Jessica C. suggested she take the original document and highlight any that are questionable and send them to her to review with Eric. Committee member suggestions were added or Jessica C. asked them to email them to her.

The Future Land Use chapter required more effort, as it is still in progress, and members made several suggestions. Discussion included the growth areas, infrastructure such as water, sewer and sidewalks, the schools, housing, finance and zoning.

Jessica G. moved that once Jessica C. has incorporated the suggestions made tonight for the Goals and Policies that, with the exception of Future Land Use, they be approved as the draft version for public review. Discussion of the motion led the committee to agree that a motion is not yet necessary and can wait until they are further along in the process.

In response to Elaine's comments about EMS, Greg D. mentioned that there is a program for junior and senior high school students at the Capital Area Technical Center. He also noted that the Conservation Commission is already working on the open space plan.

NEW BUSINESS/ NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting will be March 15. There will also be a meeting on March 29.

On Feb. 25 there will be a public hearing. Also, committee members are asked to follow up on tonight's discussion and finish the Goals and Policies for their chapters.

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Holly Rahmlow