

Comprehensive Plan Monthly Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 10, 2014 in the lower level of Mount Vernon City Hall

Present: Committee Members: Truman Jordan, Jay Johnson, Trude Elliott, Dean Borg, Dick Peterson, Matt Siders, Guy Booth and Chad Sands, ECICOG and Facilitator. Margaret Stevens, reporter from The Mount Vernon SUN Newspaper.

Trude Elliott, temporary Secretary for November 10, 2014 meeting.

Summary of meeting:

Chad presented a first draft of the City of Mount Vernon 2015 Comprehensive Plan. Planning committee will review and anticipate proposing a draft for public review in April or May 2015. After public review and input the proposed Plan is submitted to Planning and Zoning for public hearing, further review and recommendation to City Council. The timetable will depend on the outcome of the public input and recommendations from P&Z Commission.

Jay Johnson offered the following comments to the current draft.

1. Good first draft but needs more specific recommendations.
2. Provide a summary sheet listing the planning categories and specific implementation.
3. Suggests the Committee should be careful of (in Jay's words) political statements.

Chad commented the final Plan will have appropriate pictures, graphs and other documentation to complete the Plan. He stated the Quality of Life section was still a work in progress therefore not included in this draft.

Dick Peterson raised the question of including Cornell College students in the population data which influences the projected population growth figure of 15 percent. This is important because the population growth rate is used to estimate how much land is necessary for housing to accommodate an increase population in the future. Because the Cornell students, generally, will not live in Mount Vernon after graduation should their population be included to determine the amount of land needed to accommodate projected housing needs? Chad will draft proposed language clarifying that Cornell students are a sizeable percent of the current and projected population of Mount Vernon and could impact the housing projections or goals set by the City and may prevent the City from reaching certain goals. This will specifically impact the amount land needed to build housing based on the projected population. With the exception of Dick, the Committee members present were comfortable with the projected population growth of 15 percent and Chad's added language clarifying the impact of the Cornell student population.

Chad briefly summarized the contents of the draft Plan. Under the section How To Use This Document, the Committee suggested the sentence: This overall coordinator could

be the city's zoning administrator should change to read This overall coordinator could be the city's Administrator with the assistance of the zoning administrator.

Under the section: Building Permits, change the heading New Homes Built to Building Permits Issued.

Under the section on Housing Data, change to reflect the discussion that the Cornell College student population should not affect the projections for housing growth.

Chad will write Quality of Life information

Chad will edit the Housing section because the report to delete the information included in the Profile and Analysis section stated earlier in the Plan.

Jay will edit the Economic Development section.

Matt will divide Land Use in to two sections: Current and future land use

The end of the Plan will include a process to update the Plan and an appendix of planning terms. For the Planning Committee's information, Chad stated the proposed document will be sent to P&Z to hold a public hearing and then recommend to City Council. If Council objects or disagrees to all or a portion of the Plan then the Council must send back to P&Z for changes and recommendation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Next meeting Monday, November 24 at 6:30 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall