

Mount Vernon Planning and Zoning Commission
Minutes
May 8, 2013
City Hall Council Chambers, 6:30 PM

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Rich Hileman at 6:30 p.m.
Members present: Rich Hileman, Truman Jordan, Jenna Wischmeyer, Trude Elliott, Carol Chamberlain and Bill Micheel. Also in attendance: Zoning Administrator Matt Siders and Mayor Scott Peterson.

1. Approval of Agenda and April 10, 2013 minutes. These documents stand approved unless otherwise indicated by Commission members.
2. Presentation from Mayor Scott Peterson on items for Planning and Zoning discussion and possible action. Mayor Scott Peterson asked to address the Commission to make sure that both City Council and the Commission had the same understanding of the roles of the Commission. He feels that there is frustration on both ends in respect to this and Council is looking for the Commission to be more proactive on a number items. One item of concern is the Comprehensive Plan and the longer it goes unattended, the less value it has for any purpose. It hasn't been touched in 17 years. Micheel said that the plan itself outlines when it should be updated and we are well past that. He also said that he supports an update to the plan but might have a different view of what the role of the Planning and Zoning Commission is in that. If feels that if the City decides this is something they want to happen, they are going to have to spend some money to get it done. Peterson feels that what the City Council is looking for from the Commission is where to start, do we start over or build from the current plan. Elliott feels that there should be more of a formal direction from City Council, specifically stating their expectations of the Commission. Chamberlain feels that you need to have the community represented when updating the Comprehensive Plan and not have the Commission alone handle it. When the original plan was done there was huge community involvement. Wischmeyer said that one piece of information that would be helpful from Council is how to prioritize the items that need attention. Hileman is in agreement with having the Commission look at the Comprehensive Plan and make recommendations on the areas to be updated but can't guarantee how long that would take. Peterson asked that between now and the June meeting, everyone read the plan and come back with notes on where to start. The lighting ordinance and the subdivision ordinance are two other items that require attention. Updates to the current design standards ordinance will be worked on outside of Planning and Zoning. Peterson stated that another area that the Council feels needs attention is discussion of commercial growth in the Hwy 30 Corridor area.

3. Open Forum: each citizen limited to 5 minutes per discussion item.
4. Discussion and possible action on proposed lighting ordinance. Micheel updated the Commission on the draft ordinance. Jordan and Micheel met with Randy Nicols, who reviewed the draft. Very few changes were made. Commission members went through the draft and discussed possible revisions to the content. One of the main areas of discussion was the intent of the ordinance and who it was intended to protect. The consensus was that it was to protect residences, public road right-of-ways and commercial from each other. Further work is needed before a public hearing will be held. The lighting committee will meet and come up with language on the light trespass section. This information will be e-mailed to all committee members before a public hearing date is set, possibly for July 2013. Siders will also do light testing and report back to the Commission.
5. Zoning Administrator Report. There were four building permits reviewed, one of which was denied for a sign at the golf course.
6. Election of new chairperson and vice-chairperson. Discussion and possible action. A motion was made by Elliott to nominate Truman Jordan as chairperson. Motion seconded by Micheel. Carried all. Chamberlain made a motion to nominate Bill Micheel as vice-chairperson. Motion seconded by Elliott. Carried all. Chamberlain suggested rotating chairperson duties each year.
7. Old Business. Hileman asked everyone to take a look at the by-laws and think about any rules or regulations that may need to be adopted for the Commission.
8. New Business.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marsha Dewell
Administrative Assistant