

## **July 28, 2014, Mount Vernon, Iowa, Comprehensive Plan minutes**

**Present:** Chad Sands, Matt Siders, Guy Booth, Dick Peterson, Sonia Redmond, Dee Ann Rexroat, Trude Elliott, and a visitor [I do not know her name].

The plan is to continue to proceed through all six subcommittee reports, then Chad will incorporate recommendations and draft all into one document with a consistent voice. Tonight we covered three reports. The final report, **Land Use**, will be covered in our next meeting, **6:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 11.**

First we considered the **Quality of Life** report. It was noted that the 1995 plan did not have a separate quality of life section, and this report will be dependent on plans from several other committees. Chad said the three final initiatives were right on track and he will flesh them out. For example, building and zoning codes "that preserve Mount Vernon's historic feel" better defines goal no. 1. In goal #2 it would be better to write "Development of a Highway 30 bypass plan to complement [rather than "ensure"] Main Street thrives."

Guy Booth said he liked the listing of deficiencies and suggested we use it in a preamble to the full plan, saying that they would be addressed by the plan. An addition to those deficiencies we discussed the need to add two items to the "Lack of connections" section: public transportation (which came out of at least one of the interviews) and the fact that the train tracks cut the town off from the area north of town. As the Comp Plan is being written, it can be noted that one way to address these lack of connections is implementing the trails plans.

We once again brought up the need to annually review the comp plan and this should be in our final full report.

Next we turned our attention to the **Transportation and Infrastructure** plan. Dick Peterson said a major goal of the recommendations is the existing street and trail plans so we can steer development in the way we want, rather than allowing developers to steer.

There was discussion at length about protecting historic neighborhoods from incursion of wider streets, trails, sidewalks and loss of trees. Chad said we should reinforce standards in historical parts of town.

Trude Elliott noted that the LIFTS bus is available to the public if there is enough need. Should we add public transportation to the report? In all, the committee expressed very few changes to this report.

With extra time, we reviewed the **Public Facilities** report. This report was also considered a thorough look at the topic. Dick Peterson said part of the overall recommendations are to make decisions with all stakeholders at the table. Currently there seems to be a lot of independent decision-making. Also, there is a need for the city to take a proactive approach, think ahead, and purchase land now for future needs. Two additions to the report were noted -- to include

Lisbon when appropriate when discussing public facilities. And, Dick will add a paragraph to the Public Swimming Pool section to incorporate the Community Wellness Center.