

Latah County Planning Commission
Minutes, 3 April 2007

Planning Commission [PC] Members: Suvia Judd [SJ], James Smith [JS], Janet Hohle [JH], Louise Barber [LB], Steve Heick [SH], Jordan Kanikkeberg [JK], Robert Henriksen [RH].
Planning Director, Michelle Fuson [MF]; Chris Nicholson [CN]

Present/Absent: SJ, JH, JS, SH, JK, RH, LB present. Staff: Chris Nicholson; Aimee Shipman

Packet: Agenda

Handouts: Legal Memorandum from the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, Latah County; JH's resources on public input processes

Meeting: Introductions of Jordan Kanikkeberg and Bob Henriksen. JH moved that PC go into Executive Session to discuss records exemption from public disclosure. Jim Craig explained executive sessions and then that the PC needs to make a correction in the current ordinances to close a potential enforcement loophole. Decision made to defer to staff's thoughts on this and then set in motion a public hearing on proposed change. Executive session ended after motion by JS.

SJ asked Craig to go over ex parte conduct and legal responsibilities of the PC for the benefit of the new members; ex parte normally not a problem for the legislative PC (unlike the ZC, who operate quasi-judicially); PC should not deliberate except in public when a quorum is present.

Bylaws discussion needs to wait; however, elections moved forward. LB moved JH as chair, SJ as vice-chair, and LB as secretary. Seconded and slate passed unanimously.

JH presented packets of materials to help PC prepare for better involving the public in the upcoming discussion about the Comprehensive Plan. [These materials included: Idaho Statutes, Title 67, Chapter 65, Local Land Use Planning; IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum (Increasing Level of Public Impact); Sample packets for actual scoping meetings; flow chart for Comprehensive Plan Update schedule from Newton County, Georgia; sections from the Ten Commandments of a public hearing.] **PC to read this material before the next meeting.** Considered that the ordinance update process was messy due to our failure to not plan how to go about appropriate and timely public involvement, and that this time we can do better. Expense an issue; PD has the money for legal notices, but not for mass promotion, which means that partnering with existing groups will be necessary to get the word out and back. PC should talk to Cinda Williams, sustainable agriculture specialist now the county extension agent, to get ideas for process. We need to begin with an analysis of the existing plan; then to discover what people want, after educating citizenry about the Comp Plan to begin with; education and school involvement should be a part of this process; partnering with, for example, the League of Women Voters. JH: an outside advisory group might be helpful. Noted that the county has substantial differences that should be taken into consideration; there are two bioregions in Latah; CN said that the PD now has the capability to provide varied data sets, which could lead to more sensitive planning/design; further, that the new makeup of the PC is for the purpose of expanding our outreach potential for the purpose of meaningful discussions within the county; SJ: Rural Alliance is a good outcome from the last go-round; email should make a difference this time; JH: we need input, but we also need to plan and carefully execute this process.

What's next: CN: Genesee ACI/public hearing; bylaws; Comp Plan. LB will retrieve the minutes related to the Genesee ACI for the next meeting; PC to read JH material and analyze the Comprehensive Plan. JH: research on the Internet of other similar counties by PC would be useful

Next meeting: 1 May 2007. [4/26/07 note: May 1 meeting cancelled; next meeting now scheduled for 15 May 2007, Room 2-B, County Courthouse; 5:30 pm.]

Submitted by Louise D. Barber, 26 April January 2007