

LATAH COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

LATAH COUNTY COURTHOUSE *522 S. ADAMS * PO BOX 8068 * MOSCOW, ID 83843 * (208) 883-7220

Janet Hohle, Chairman
Robert Henriksen

Suvia Judd, Vice Chairman
J. Steven Heick
Cindy Agidius

Danelle Forseth, Secretary
John Akin

Meeting Notes October 21, 2008

Meeting began at 5:30 PM

Planning Department Staff: MF

Planning Commission Members: SH, DF, BH, JA, JH, SJ

Discussion regarding meeting halls

MF discussed the issues on the proposed Viola Community Center. MF explained that she interprets the phrase “meeting hall” as it was set forth in the previous ordinance. PC is to consider whether we adopt this interpretation as the definition. PC needs to review the language and then needs to discuss the meeting hall issue.

The members of the public in attendance explained that their concern is with the concept of “meeting hall” being undefined. Murray spoke to the idea that a meeting hall is not available for commercial use (e.g., grange, fire hall, community center concepts), and that they typically charge a nominal fee.

BH asked about the difference between community centers vs. meeting halls. JH mentioned the Log Cabin facility in Potlatch.

Issue: How to interpret “meeting hall”. MF explained that the PC never intended to eliminate meeting halls from the ordinance. Members of the public brought up the requirement for an EPA public drinking system. The public expressed concern with allowing people to apply for a permit for a meeting hall but not having to disclose the purpose of the hall.

MF explained that in Viola the Viola Community Club applied for a conditional use permit and had a hearing before the ZC and that the applicant withdrew its application after a continuance of the hearing was issued. MF further explained that meeting halls are in the conditional use section of the ordinance. The public also expressed concern regarding the size of the buildings. MF explained that clubs are allowed in a commercial zone only.

SJ explained a concern with ownership, for instance the Deary Community Center is publicly owned. The public attendees echoed that concern explaining they were concerned both with whether a facility was publicly or privately controlled, the size of a facility and what type of use would be allowed.

Examples of places that are privately owned and used by the public were provided to the PC including: Blaine Grange Hall, Busy Bee Club House, Appaloosa Horse Club.

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PC concluded that it wants to define “meeting hall” in the ordinance and will research the issue and develop language.

PC agreed to move forward with a public hearing on Nov. 18th and at that time will begin to consider language for defining “meeting hall”.

Discussion with Sandra Pannell (faculty at UI)

Ms. Pannell explained what projects her students would be working and reporting on to the PC. One group will look at examples of other counties that are comparable to Latah County in regards to agriculture and residential land uses and right to farm ordinances. A second group will consider transit issues particularly along Highway 8. And a final group will provide an audit of the County’s Comprehensive Plan and Ordinance in accordance with Smartgrowth Guidelines. The groups will present their findings to the PC at the first December meeting.

Discussion regarding Comprehensive Plan

Two workshops were scheduled; one with the Genesee Latah County Wheat Growers and another with the Troy Senior Center.

Action Items

1. PC to review the summary workshop tables.
2. PC to review proposed amendment to Idaho Code regarding a possible addition of a Groundwater Management Ordinance.

Meeting adjourned at 6:49PM