

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 March 17, 2009

PC meeting began at 5:28 PM

Planning Department Staff: MF

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

PC reviewed minutes from February 17, 2009. The Minutes were approved as submitted.

Discussion regarding Comprehensive Plan Elements

1. Community Design Element

PC questioned what kind of development has occurred since 1994 in regards to this element. MF explained that not much development has occurred although Policies #8 (Protect existing land uses from conflicting uses) and #9 (Preserve the rural character of Latah County) are more popular and referred to often. MF reported that no new commercial high density development occurred, one new industrial development and no commercial strip development occurred since the CP's adoption.

PC considered whether to include home occupations in community design element or economic development element.

JA expressed interest in providing an area of growth and making the development approval process easier for users.

PC discussed whether the land use map should encourage or promote areas for development and whether the zoning map needs to be revised.

2. Population Element

MF explained that research regarding this element is required by the state.

PC discussed modifying language to remove negative language (i.e., "discourage"). In regards to Policy #5 and the development of unproductive lands, the PC discussed modifying or clarifying the intent of this policy. For example, defining the term "unproductive" and recognizing that other important habitat might be found within so called "unproductive" lands.

**LATAH COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION**

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

3. Housing Element

PC discussed policies within this element in regards to “green” building and affordable housing and recognized that most of the policies are within local City’s control.

4. Economic Development Element

SJ would like to investigate greater agricultural opportunities within the County. In regards to Policy #1 and the protection of agricultural and forestry lands from scattered development, the PC discussed the issue of what needs exactly needs to be protected (e.g., “productive” soil, farmers, family businesses).

The question was raised as to what minimum size parcel would allow farming to continue.

In regards to Goal #2 “To provide for land uses appropriate to local and regional economic needs”, PC recognized that this goal needs clarification and more investigation.

In regards to Goal #3 “To encourage economic diversification consistent with other goals and policies of this plan”, the PC discussed the limited role (LEDC) and the County plays in local economic development. BH encouraged the County to investigate what existing and unique resources it has (e.g., fire clay and other mining).

Action Items

Review Elements 5, 7, 8, 11, and 14.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM