

Payette Comprehensive Plan Open House Comments

May 22, 2017 and June 1, 2017

On Monday, May 22nd, an open house meeting was held from 4:00 – 7:30 PM at the Payette Senior Center for purposes of soliciting public comment on the development of a new comprehensive plan for the City of Payette.

Payette residents were welcomed as they entered. The comprehensive plan and the process of re-writing it was explained to each. They were offered a chance to comment on the draft Payette Vision Statement. Then each resident was directed to four stations, titled Growth Management, Built Environment, Natural Environment, and Community Resources. Each station covered several chapters of the forthcoming comprehensive plan. Members of the Com Plan Advisory Committee and consulting staff were available at each station to answer questions and engage in discussion. Advisory Committee member Sue York was the event photographer. Here are the comments that were received. Multiple votes are noted in the number in parentheses:

On Thursday, June 1, an Latino Community Focus Group was held from 6:00 – 8:00 PM at the Payette High school for purposes of soliciting public comment on the development of a new comprehensive plan for the City of Payette.

Combined comments

Growth Management – This station covered the chapters on Population and Growth, Housing, and Economic Development. Edited Comments received:

POPULATION AND GROWTH

Manage growth as best s possible

- Do not want too much growth -
- Growth is even and not too fast...it's comfortable.
- Control growth, make sure infrastructure can support growth (safety, economic development, population)

Population

- Attract younger folk with street fairs, art shows, etc.
- Young families are moving here

Keep the small town feel.

- I like the small town feel

HOUSING

Need Affordable housing

- More affordable housing (3)
- Lack of rentals (apartments, homes)

Various housing types

- There is a need for a variety of housing options.

Buying home

- There are programs to assist with home improvement but there aren't programs to assist in purchasing homes. (IHFA).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Business retention

Business expansion

- Need another good restaurant
- Need a larger or additional grocery store.
- Need mini-golf and another hotel or motel.

Business recruitment

- Encourage new business; fill empty buildings.

Financial incentives

- Need financial incentives to attract new entrepreneurs.
- Provide incentives for business growth, tax incentives for new businesses,

Downtown

- Need more businesses downtown
- Need a downtown hotel (2).

Recreational Activities

- Need a drive-in theater, bowling, and a family center (2)
- Family-centered activity center or hub

Economic Development Partners

- Need better (friendlier) business relations
- Need a better (more supportive) business environment
- Need more events which will, in turn, attract more people and businesses.
- Offer business workshops on how to start a business.
- Need more events which will, in turn, attract more people and businesses. it will help make Payette more competitive.

Jobs

- Young adults leave to seek opportunities – educational, employment, progress.
- More jobs

Others

- No nuclear power plant...yikes!

Built Environment – This station covered the chapters on Land Use, Transportation, Public Airport, Public Services, Facilities, and Utilities, and National Interest Electrical Transmission Lines. Edited Comments received:

LAND USE

- Would like to see a cultural center, hospital, community college, central community park (conducive for the community to come gather on a regular basis).

TRANSPORTATION

Street Improvements

- Prefer parallel parking on Main St.
- Upgrade South Iowa to wider width, and at least one sidewalk from 1st Ave South to Wayne Drive
- Repair sick streets
- There is a need to the connect highway to Ontario.

Sidewalks

- Add sidewalks, many streets do not have sidewalks.

Bike Lanes

- More bike lanes, only one is on 7th and is narrow.

PUBLIC AIRPORT

- None

PUBLIC SERVICES FACILITIES, AND UTILITIES

- Need curbside recycling (2)
- Storm drain on 1st Avenue South. Clean out after storms.
- Better stormwater drainage (2)
- The museum is great!
- Improve water quality.
- Free city WiFi.

NATURAL ELECTRICAL TRANSPORTATION LINES

- None

Community Resources – This station covered the chapters on Community Design, Parks and Recreation, School Facilities & Transportation, and Cultural and Historic Sites. EDITED Comments received:

COMMUNITY DESIGN

- Paint facades of downtown buildings, even if the buildings are empty (2)
- Need to control eyesores
- Clean up properties
- I like the small town architecture.
- Also would like a map and directory brochure (& kiosk) for visitors, like they have in malls.
- Need structured (stable) downtown revitalization
- Form a local arts group to explore getting more arts resources
- Enforce Code Enforcement for weeds, lawn upkeep, cars etc).
- Payette is a small city but clean.
- Involve business owners in supporting road clean-up and overall city clean-up.
- City sponsor/coordinate a community volunteer clean-up.

PARKS AND RECREATION

- Better use of bandshell in park – concerts, contests, etc.
- Need better and more signage on restroom at Central Park
- Need more public restrooms
- Need more benches in dressing rooms at swimming pool
- Would like one central physical location for posting community happenings, e.g. a kiosk at Bancroft Park
- More activities needed for younger folks (kids)
- Need a basketball court and other activities for kids.
- Need a YMCA (2)
- A fenced dog park is needed (2)
- Keep the Payette Pool open! (2)
- Bring the community pool back to its past glory (2)
- Great variety of resources: bandshell, pool, etc.
- Love all the parks and green spaces
- Need a longer Greenbelt path—to Centennial Park.
- Need more bike lanes and bike-friendly streets (2)
- Acquire the Lettinich Ranch for a regional park (working with Fruitland), in order to help preserve our rural character
- Improve greenbelt and make more bike friendly and walking friendly. Extend to Centennial Park. (2)
- Greenbelt extended to Payette River Bridge
- Bike lanes for travel to schools, parks, & pool.
- Love the beautiful views and trees
- Like the open spaces and views...not crowded
- More places available for youth and whole community (YMCA, sports fields, etc.)

- Activities for kids in the summer.
- Extend greenbelt, currently only one mile.
- Summer programs – cultural programs, ballet, piano, etc.

SCHOOL FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION

- None.

CULTURAL AND HISTORIC SITES

- Need a satellite community college
- Need city government to be more receptive to people trying to make improvements to existing properties.

Natural Environment – This station covered the chapters on Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Hazardous Areas. EDITED Comments received:

NATURAL RESOURCES

- None

AGRICULTURE

- Protect agricultural base

HAZARDOUS AREAS

- None

OTHERS

- More neighborhood cooperation needed
- Need a city communication hub
- Mosquito abatement!

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

- Need to improve community engagement, provide more opportunities to gather community.
- Community needs to be integrated.
- More communication regarding important changes in the community
- Use a variety of communication channels: technology, leaders, radio, flyers, events, businesses, personal invitations
- Provide feedback/outcomes from community meetings/programs
- Solicit feedback on an on-going basis, not only when there is a specific topic or project.
- There are resources available but people aren't necessarily aware of what assistance is available.
- There are significant barriers for residents who only speak Spanish or have limited English skills. There aren't any Spanish speaking resources available at the City Hall, police or when calling 911.
- Generational differences in communication.

- Form a city committee to promote activities, events, nutrition, recreation, sports (this could include volunteers) can be a good way to involve the community members.
- Multi-cultural community events (Ontario hosts World Village)

GENERAL COMMENTS

- Hispanic community needs to be more united.
- Few changes in the city in past 20 years, people aren't united and integrated.
- Some good programs, free breakfast for kids during the summer, library book program for children.
- City general communication, reach out to the whole community, city bulletin.
- The community wants to support the City, we can help with communication to help engage the community, organizing/ supporting fundraisers (i.e. Tip a Cop – Ontario).
- Health and nutrition education and awareness programs, this will benefit the whole community.
- Some of the growth has been caused due to the jail population increasing, families come to live nearby.
- It is a calm and relaxed city.