

Payette Comp Plan Meeting #7 Notes

From June 8th, 2017

Attending – Maria Ibarra, Duane Vaughn, Tim Gerdes, Danny Gabiola, Markita Williams, Cleo Thompson, Kathy Patrick, Jessica Lowry, Anna Holcomb, Diane Kinney, Dale Carney. Ad hoc attendees: Jennifer Marshall, Kim Bruce, Eric Berliner. Staff: Matea Gabiola, Jerome Mapp, Laura Alvarez Schrag, and Jim Birdsall.

Latino and Community-wide Open House Meetings - Laura Alvarez Schrag and Jerome Mapp provided a review of the results of both the Latino and Community Open house meetings held on June 5th and May 22nd respectively. Written notes summarizing comments received at both meetings were distributed to the Committee. In general the meetings were characterized as being successful with more attendance and higher quality of comments than was expected. Comments were gathered under the four main areas of discussion that were presented as “stations” at the open house meetings. Those being Growth Management, Built Environment, Community Resources, and Natural Environment. There were also comments with a more broad focus that were recorded as “Engaging the Community” and “General Comments”. It was noted that there were striking similarities in the comments from both meetings.

The draft vision statement that is being developed for the Plan was also presented at the open house meetings and those comments were also reviewed for the Committee. General discussion then ensued among the members with additional thoughts and comments recorded by the planning team. It was decided that the team would take this information and continue to draft an updated version Vision Statement for review at the next regular meeting.

Housing Presentation – Erik Kingston from Idaho Housing and Finance Association (IHFA) then gave a presentation to the Committee about several important aspects when considering the topic of housing in the community planning setting. He provided an overview of activities and services provided by IHFA and how they can assist communities. He also talked about factors that can impact the affordability of housing; different housing types, the value of a community level housing needs assessment; commonly used terminology in the housing industry.

Although the draft housing chapter had been discussed in the previous May Committee meeting, the Committee spent some time with continuing discussion on various housing topics as a result of Erik’s presentation. In particular, homelessness in Payette and the surrounding area and the lack of resources to address this issue came up. Some ideas about potential solutions to homelessness were also mentioned.

The overall sense of the group was that Payette should strive to support the creation of housing at many different price points in the community.

Agriculture Discussion – Committee member Danny Gabiola then discussed various aspects of area agricultural activity and impacts on communities. Changes and trends in the industry were briefly covered before focusing upon how agriculture might affect both the local economy as well as how growth of development might intersect with agricultural activities. This area was referred to as the Urban / Agriculture Interface.

Mr. Gabiola suggested, and the Committee agreed, that the best situation would be if development and growth could be encouraged to take place in areas that were not well suited for agriculture such as in the non-irrigated bench lands east of town.

An initial draft of the Agriculture Chapter was provided to the group with the request to be ready to provide comments at future meetings.

School Facilities and Transportation – The former Superintendent of Payette Public Schools Pauline King was unable to attend the meeting due to last minute scheduling problems, so Jennifer Marshall offered to try to answer questions and also to take requests for information back to the Superintendent for future consideration.

In general, Committee members learned that adequate flexibility and capacity for student body growth currently exists for school facilities and that a fair amount of community population growth could be absorbed without need additional facilities.

There could be some bending growth in student population this coming school year if Fruitland Schools do in fact choose to close their middle school enrollment to those living outside of their district boundaries.

In addition it was reported that Payette Public Schools had recently completed a new Strategic Plan and that information would be made readily available to the City and the Committee.

In a related educational question it was confirmed that the only two sources in the area for higher education classes would be through various online educational providers or through Treasure Valley Community College (TVCC) located in nearby Ontario, Oregon.

Future Meetings – The Committee was reminded that the next regular meeting would take place on Thursday, July 13th at City Council Chambers from 1:30 pm until around 4:00 pm. Subject matter presentations will be made concerning the areas of Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation, Cultural & Historic Sites, and Hazardous Areas. Presenters will be listed in the meeting agenda when it is circulated in early July.

The last summer meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 10th, same time and location and tentatively will cover the areas of Public Services, Facilities, Utilities, and Airport and Transportation.

Adjourned – The meeting adjourned about 4:10 pm.

