

Payette Comp Plan Meeting #9 Notes

From August 10th, 2017

Attending – Duane Vaughn, Tim Gerdes, Danny Gabiola, Cleo Thompson, Diane Kinney, Dale Carney, Luis Munguia, Anna Holcomb, Dillon Ovit.

Ad hoc attendees: Frazer Peterson, Bert Osborn, Dave Koeppen, Debbie Maxwell, Dennis King, Jaime Couch, Mark Clark, Brenda Stowe, Darwin Decroo, and Jacob Husk.

Staff: Mairel Rodriguez, Jerome Mapp, Laura Alvarez Schrag, Jim Birdsall, and Dick Gardner.

Welcome and Introductions: Dr. Dick Gardner opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. The group introduced themselves. Jerome Mapp explained that the purpose of today's meeting, like last month, was to listen to subject matter experts describe the various services, facilities, and infrastructure systems operating within the City of Payette. Much of the information will be included in the new plan, but the experts are also in position to identify key issues needing resolution.

Dick Gardner then noted that each committee member should have an agenda, meeting notes from last month, the final vision Statement, and a set of discussion questions for each comp plan chapter.

Presentations from Subject Experts: The following discussions then took place to provide an understanding of current issue to the Committee in each subject area.

Airport - Frazer Peterson, Bert Osborn, and Dave Koeppen

- The Payette Airport is thriving in comparison to past years.
 - Landings have increased
 - Added 500 feet to make the runway 3,500 feet long. It was also resurfaced recently. This is not long enough for jets, and further length extensions would require serious earthmoving.
 - There are now 23 hangars that pay both rent and property tax on improvements, with a waiting list for hangar space.
 - Teton Machine and other businesses have located in Payette in large part due to the presence of a quality small airport.
 - The airport is now financially self-sufficient from rents and the sale of fuel.
 - A courtesy car is kept at the airport for the use of those who land. Users are asked to re-fill with gas and to make a donation.
 - The City owns the airport and the State of Idaho helps with grant funding, but there is not federal control. If FAA federal funds are used, the airport becomes subject to federal regulations.
- **Airport Goals**
 1. **Airpark - Develop the 80 acres** owned adjacent to the airport for live/fly homes with hangars. This development was in planning prior to the Great Recession. There was some public pushback from neighbors. (Do we

need an ordinance for air park development? Possibly that states the city will retain ownership of the land?)

2. **Add additional hangars** to meet demand.
3. **Build supporting infrastructure.** E.g. There is no water or sewer at the airport presently, so extending services will be necessary. A larger fuel tank of 10,000 gallons will allow better fuel delivery service.
4. **Obtain Fixed Base Operator (FBO).** This is a person stationed at the airport to keep things operating and occasionally help with airplane repairs.

Transportation

Public Transportation – Debbie Maxwell, Asst Director and Bd member
Dennis King

Treasure Valley Transit operates a fixed route between Fruitland, Payette, and the Ontario Walmart that circles every hour for 12 hours per day, 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

- They have operated since 2007.
- They get federal transit grants that are matched by local funds. Payette, Fruitland, and Payette County each contribute \$15,000 per year.
- Ridership has increased 9% since the route was re-structured. 18,815 riders in 2016.
- The bus parks overnight at Fruitland City Hall.
- Fares go entirely toward operating costs. Federal funds provide 80% of admin costs, 60% of operations costs, and 92% of preventative maintenance.
- Service cannot be increased without an increase in budget.
- How possible is that? Idaho is one of a few states that provides no funding from gas tax or vehicle registrations for mass transit funding.
- A regional Transit Authority is not a taxing district.
- A City Goal could be to take a proactive role in promoting local funding sources.

Sr. Citizen Van – This van is operated by the Payette Sr. Center (Kathy Patrick). It operates once a month on the third Saturday and travels from McCall to the Treasure Valley. (Kathy Patrick will provide more info in September.)

ACHD Commuter Van (Discussion with the Committee)

3rd Avenue North, in Payette to 343 S. Americana, in Boise, Monday-Friday. This service is for folks who work in the Boise area, not for those seeking single rides.

Streets - Jamie Couch

Traffic Movement

- 7:30 – 8:30 AM and 3:30 – 5:30 PM are the times of most congestion in Payette.

- 6th Ave South to 7th Ave North, Traffic can occasionally back up an entire block to the next intersection.
- 2nd Ave N & Hwy 52 – It is hard for trucks to make the turn heading east.

Freight

- There is seasonal traffic on State Hwy 52 coming from Oregon during harvest times. (Note that this highway is maintained by the State of Idaho.)
- Hazardous loads need a permit prior to driving them.
- Covering loads is not required, but can cause problems with onions and other produce falling off trucks. This is mostly an issue on Hwy 95.
- Liquid waste spilled from trucks heading to landfill creates a public safety issue on Payette streets.

Truck Routes

Rail – N. 7th rail crossing needs to be extended to include a pedestrian crossing. (City has been working on this, but the railroad has not responded.)

Parking - The angle parking downtown can become difficult as larger vehicles become more popular. They block one's view of traffic while backing into Main Street. However, the angle parking is generally supported by people because it provides more parking spaces downtown.

Bicycle and Pedestrians Facilities

Bike Paths – More bicycle lanes are definitely needed, despite some progress in this area. The path along Hwy 95 is a State responsibility.

Sidewalks

Safe Routes to School – There is a concern about the proper use of the crossing walks. Some students hit the button and proceed into the street without waiting for the lights to flash and cars to respond by stopping. We need to educate students. Maybe a sign asking folks to wait for vehicles to stop would help. (Jerome notes this as an issue in HAZ chapter.)

Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity

Public Safety

Police – Chief Mark Clark. The Payette Police force numbers 16 full-time and 14 certified officers that provide 24/7/365 service to the City with at least three officers on duty at all times. They average 800-850 calls per month. The staff is composed of a Chief, a Captain, a Lieutenant, two Sergeants, and a corporal. In addition, there is a canine officer, a school resource officer, an ordinance enforcement officer, a narcotics officer and a clerical person. The narcotics officer is part of a High Desert Task Force with Malheur, Payette, and Washington counties. Methamphetamine and heroin have the most violent crimes associated with them. Marijuana has changed as an issue now that pot is legally available in parts of Oregon.

Recruitment is a major and on-going challenge. Payette tends to lose officers to higher-paying larger cities like Boise. Although he has had bi-lingual officers in the past, there are no Hispanic officers at present. It takes about \$90,000 and considerable time to place an officer in service, given the various training requirements. The group talked about ideas to help with recruiting, such as outreach efforts into the schools to talk about a career path in law enforcement. Youth ride-alongs, shop with a cop and other youth programs help humanize the police. The force would definitely help with a boys and girls club. However, Chief Clark noted that it is hard for an officer to participate in volunteer activities after putting in 10-12 hour days, with four days on and 3 days off.

Police shifts include a 7am-5pm day shift, an 11 am – 9pm traffic shift, a 3 pm-1:00 am mid shift, a 5PM swing shift and a 9pm – 7am graveyard shift

The 911 service is operated by the county sheriff, but calls are routed to Payette as appropriate. There are no bi-lingual staff. They rely on volunteers to help with Spanish-only calls. Often when they arrive, a son or daughter or neighbor will be there to assist with translation.

Emergency Medical Service (EMS) - Michelle Giokas leads the Payette County Paramedics. This is a service staffed by professional EMTs or paramedics (ALS). There are 11 full-time staff of which 6 are paramedics, plus a director who also rides when needed. They have two ambulances and are seeking two more. They also offer patient transport and stand-bys at events. They have a \$1.4 million budget, which 1/3 from the county and 2/3 from service fees. New ambulances cost \$160-180,000, and they hope to get two new ones. Budget constraints prohibit expanding services. They have 3 bi-lingual employees and need more. It is a struggle to keep EMS services current with a growing population and rising demand.

Parks and Recreation - Jaime Couch

- A current concern is identifying and removing hazardous trees from within the parks. These are trees with rotten cores, disease, or other risks of large limbs falling.
- Payette has a Tree City USA certification, a significant accomplishment. It reflects that the City has a staff arborist.
- There is an existing greenbelt along the river. Connecting it to the boat ramp and also upstream would be improvements.
- Payette has partnered with Idaho Power in an October event where customers who have signed up receive nice large trees for planting on their properties. All the trees are brought to a park and handed out to the residents. The City will assist where needed and provide the park space.
- There is adequate park space per resident to allow for the projected 50% population growth by 2045. It would be a good idea to require additional park space as part of large subdivision developments.

- A minor but controversial issue has been a pit bull ordinance. Apparently, there have been court rulings elsewhere that rule it illegal to target a single breed with restrictive ordinances.
- A dog park is planned.
- At the request of ID F&G, the parks dept asks that certain plants harmful to wildlife, such as Japanese Yews not be planted.

Library Services - Brenda Stowe, acting director

- The Payette Library served 41,994 patrons in the year to date. Program participants number 7,942.
- There are 20 computers available to the public.
- Non-residents make up a sizeable minority of library patrons. They pay \$63.60 per year for a library card.
- There is a movement to establish a county library district. This is a concern as it creates uncertainty about the role and effects on the Payette Library. The City library could become the core for the county library, or it could cause a loss of the non-resident patrons. Payette will continue a dialogue about how a partnership might work for all parties.
- There is a small selection of Spanish books, but it needs to be expanded. Similarly, there needs to be outreach to the Hispanic community about the resources that the library offers, such as access to computers and the Internet.
- The library currently focuses on children, and gets large turnouts for readings of children's books. However, there is a need to develop more senior programs.
- The library would like to offer more programs.
- The library is now open five days a week—M & F 10am – 5pm; and T, W, & Th 10 am – 7pm.
- It would also like to expand to be open six days a week. It tried operating Tuesday through Saturday, but found there was more use on Mondays than on Saturdays.
- The library does participate in an interlibrary exchange program.

Public Utilities - City of Payette - Public Works Department - Darwin Decroo **Wastewater System (Sewer) –**

- There are forty miles of sewer lines in the Payette wastewater system, served by 724 manholes.
- There are now 2,600 connections. (*Breakout numbers among single family residential, multi-unit residential, commercial, and industrial would be useful. And perhaps a short list of the major industrial wastewater streams, led by Seneca Foods.*)
- Seneca contributes heavily to the load, despite their pre-treatment of effluent. However, they have been a highly cooperative customer.
- The Sewer Master Plan is 20 years old, and the process to create an updated master plan has just been started.
- There is approximately one million gallons per day (mgd) of treated effluent. The system design is for 2.1 mgd, so there is room for growth.

- Airport area growth would be good for the sewer main serving that area.
- Expansion or growth to the east is preferred, based on the capacity of sewer mains and feeder lines.
- One concern is the age and condition of some of the lines. Darwin has a camera that he uses to examine the pipes. When the water system is opened for repairs, he tries to work on the sewer lines as well, so that the road only has to be opened once.
- Darwin is trained to a Class III treatment plant operator, which is what the Payette system is rated (on a scale of I to IV). There are two employees with a Class II rating.

Storm Water –

- The stormwater drains feed directly into the river.
- Again, many are quite old, but this system is not examined as closely as the wastewater system.
- During a major event, various intersections may flood.

Potable Water System –

- There are 40 miles of pipe, much of which is quite old.
- There are 300 fire hydrants. The system operators are fully licensed, including a backup operator.
- The system has three reservoirs (2 are 1.4 million gallon capacity and the 3rd is 1.2 million gallons at Clay Peak.) These reservoirs serve to add pressure in much the same way as a water tower, except the capacity is much larger than a water tower.
- Water pressure is lowest in the east part of the City. However, the Clay Peak high pressure main can be used to serve growth to the east.
- There is a general concern about aging delivery systems.
- Water rates are low, and this is a concern because they are so low that USDA Rural Development will not finance improvements. The feds are concerned that construction of systems was originally heavily subsidized, with the idea that replacement would be self-financed by capital reserves built by higher rates.
- The latest Water Master Plan was developed in 2015.

Irrigation – There are 13 irrigation districts in town. Most feed off the Payette Lower Canal. Most residences are watering with irrigation water, and not expensive potable water.

Solid Waste, Landfill, Recycling – Hardin Sanitation provides solid waste collection and delivery to the Clay Peak landfill. There is no municipal recycling, though there are collection bins at Clay Peak.

Future Meetings

Thursday, September 14, 2017, 1:30 – 4:00 pm

Agency & Subject Matter Experts - Information Technology, Irrigation Water, Public Health Facilities and Health Services, and Other Utilities
 Agency & Subject Matter Experts - Land Use Planning
 Review Draft Chapters: Property Rights, Population, & Housing

Thursday, October 12, 1:30 – 4:00 pm
Review Draft Chapters

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.