

TO: Planning Commission Members  
Honorable Mayor and City Council Members  
FROM: Shawn Wetterlin, Building Official/ Zoning Administrator  
DATE: April 8, 2016  
RE: Meeting Minutes,  
Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016

The Planning Commission met at 5:15 p.m., on Tuesday, April 5, 2016 in the City Council Chambers at City Hall. The following members were Present: Donald Smith, Richard Wieser, Linda Larson, Patti Dockendorff, Jerry Steffes, Mani Edpuganti, Dave Hanifl and Ex-officio member Brian Krenz. Also present was Building Official/ Zoning Administrator, Shawn Wetterlin and City Administrator Bill Waller.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Smith at 5:15 p.m.

1. The meeting minutes of March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 were approved as distributed by consensus of the Planning Commission.
2. The Chair reviewed the future Comprehensive Plan work plan dates and a possible Variance application for Springbrook Village on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. There may also be a joint meeting with the city council and planning commission on May 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 reviewing the Springbrook Village project, pending receipt of variance application.
3. The Chair called to open the Public Meeting, Motion by Patti Dockendorff and seconded by Linda Larson to open the public meeting all members present voted in favor.
4. The Chair provided background on the Comprehensive Planning Process and timeline. Seven committees were formed to consider the 7 standard elements of a Comprehensive Plan. The purpose is to engage more members of the community in the process than would be typical with the hope that more citizens will mean, better ideas, greater accountability and new people to serve on committees and Council in the future. The Planning Commission receives the draft report and identifies areas of oversight or clarification for the next draft so that there will be fewer required edits after the 'final draft' is prepared, reviewed and recommended to the council. Public comment was received with each citizen (approximately 12 citizens were present) and member of the planning commission given an opportunity to comment. The response was one of appreciation for the work of the chairs and members of the task groups and support for the findings and action steps. Pertinent comments for consideration in final draft follow after each of the Task Groups.
  - A. The Land Use and Community Design Group chaired by Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner presented their draft report. Some comments are from their oral report and others from the public and commission members. Similar comments are grouped.
    - a. Improve the appearance and connection to the marsh entrance (Blue Lake).

- b. We are over the river and out of the ordinary
- c. Active partnership with School and Township
- d. Public Health a priority
- e. A more vibrant downtown
- f. Strategy to get word out to help make elements a priority
- g. Want small town feel
- h. Annual review of Comprehensive Plan
- i. Safer rail system, Semi-truck traffic and air quality

Motion by Linda Larson to close public meeting and seconded by Jerry Steffes all members present voted in favor.

- j. Look at adjusting future land use maps for accuracy
- k. Consider more diagonal parking, more specifics on parking
- l. Make bluff land language more clear section 3.8
- m. Consider wordage for trailer parks/ mobile home parks
- n. Clarify Bluff land conservation and shore land wordage
- o. More explicate on school: what's best for school and neighborhoods
- p. Include the 2050 document, with whole coulee region needs

B. The Natural Systems, Open Spaces and Recreation Task Group chaired by Jim Nissen presented their draft report. Some comments are from their oral report and others from the public and commission members. Similar comments are grouped.

- a. Look at objective to make sure there are measurable points
- b. Keep Comprehensive Plan in mind yearly.
- c. Mention seniors and program for seniors and consider all populations
- d. Develop independent outdoor recreation website with La Crescent opportunities
- e. Work in walking trail behind ABLE 9 Acres site (south of High School)
- f. Install a sign for Blue Lake
- g. Plant more trees at Pike area
- h. Improve marketing and Funding sources
- i. Encourage working with Township
- j. Make sure document is used and measurable
- k. Consider dredging Blue Lake
- l. Work as a group on Millers corner, I-90 Bridge and Blue Lake with all agencies applying for grants
- m. Community Education, Park and Rec, School, City and Chamber work together to make sure all citizen needs are met
- n. Clarify language for promotion of Air, Water, Health very important
- o. Consider using students filming parks as a guided walk
- p. Address all ages and abilities

Motion for adjournment by Dave Hanifl and seconded by Jerry Steffes all members voted in favor.

The motion for adjournment was preceded by recognition of work contributed by the many in this process, especially the chairs, committee members and citizens in attendance. Consensus was that it was a positive meeting and discussion. Adjourned 7:40 p.m.

The next meeting will be April 6, 2016 at 5:30.

Respectfully Recorded, Shawn Wetterlin.