

City of Mount Vernon
Planning Commission Meeting
Minutes from March 15, 2016

Vice-Chairperson Shelley Acero called the meeting to order. Present were Planning Commission members Fred Clark, Chris Bollinger, Adair Orr, Linda Piazza and Al Lyon. Planning Commission member Tom Waller arrived after the meeting started. Staff members Bob Hyde and Rebecca Lowell were also in attendance. There was one member in the audience, Joan Penny.

Minutes:

Mr. Orr moved, second by Mrs. Piazza, to approve the minutes from November 3, 2015, February 2, 2016 and March 1, 2016 as presented. Motion carried.

Comprehensive Plan Schedule March to June 2016:

Mrs. Lowell provided a calendar that gave meeting and hearing dates with Planning Commission and City Council on the Comprehensive Plan schedule. The calendar includes release dates for Comprehensive Plan materials. The City will host an open house to be held on April 20th, at 5:00 p.m., with the Planning Commission, City Council and the Citizens Advisory Committee. The topics will be housing and land use. A public comment period will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Comprehensive Plan Vision Statement:

Mr. Bollinger prepared a Comprehensive Plan vision statement for the other members to review. The consensus among the members is they liked Mr. Bollinger's concise version but feel it should also reflect a sense of place, diversity and amenities such as parks and trails. They will continue to fine tune the statement and review it again at the next meeting.

Planning Commission Vision Statement:

This item was tabled until the next meeting on April 5, 2015.

Draft Transportation Element:

This is the third review of the transportation element of the 2016 Comprehensive Plan update. The comprehensive plan is a policy document with a 20 year horizon. The State requires an update every 8 years. The purpose of the transportation element is to ensure the City's transportation infrastructure is managed to provide safe and cost effective transportation routes throughout the City.

A report of the traffic element highlighting the City's existing transportation network was provided. It included a non-motorized component (rail, transit, biking and walking), figures on projected growth, average daily trips (ADT) and signalization. Mrs. Lowell explained how the Level of Service (LOS) measures impacts, how those impacts are mitigated, and existing LOS failures within the City. Funding for streets comes from tax payers, or grants, which are prioritized in the CIP (Capital Improvement Projects); developer funded and traffic impact fees. Traffic impact fees do not pay for street maintenance.

There being no further business, Mr. Lyon moved, second by Mrs. Piazza, to adjourn. Motion carried.