

City of Mount Vernon
Planning Commission Meeting
Minutes from April 5, 2016

Chairperson Tom Waller called the meeting to order. Present were Planning Commission members Adair Orr, Chris Bollinger, Fred Clark, Linda Piazza; and staff members Bob Hyde and Rebecca Lowell. Planning Commission members Al Lyon and Shelley Acero were absent. There were also 10 audience members.

Minutes:

Mr. Orr moved, second by Mr. Bollinger, to approve the minutes from March 15, 2016 as presented. Motion carried.

Land Use Element & Buildable Lands:

Mrs. Lowell provided an overview of the Land Use Element and Buildable Lands. She explained the Comprehensive Plan is a State required document that provides a framework for goals, objectives and policies for the City over a 20 year horizon. Updates are required every 8 years. The deadline is June 30, 2016.

Land Use Element:

There are six parts to the Comprehensive Plan: Transportation, Utilities, Housing, Economic Development, Parks and Land Use. This element must show the City has enough land for homes, jobs and public uses. Future growth must be anticipated and the Office of Financial Management (OFM) provides the population forecasts from which a local steering committee selects a population range low, medium or high. From this figure 20% is allocated to rural areas and 80% to cities. Job targets allocation is similar to population distribution. It is countywide within a 20 year horizon. 9% is allocated to rural areas and 91% allocated to cities.

Buildable Lands:

This is an analysis of the lands within the City suitable for development. It is an essential tool in determining how the City will accommodate for future housing and jobs in a 20 year horizon.

Miscellaneous:

The hearing scheduled for April 19th has been cancelled and will be re-scheduled at a later date. An open house on housing and land use will be held on April 20th. In addition to local residents members from the Planning Commission, the Citizens Advisory Committee and the City Council have been invited to attend. The open house will be held from 5:00 – 6:00 pm followed by a public comment session from 6:00 – 7:00 pm.

A letter addressed to the Planning Commission, City Council, Mayor Boudreau and Bob Hyde from Dan Mitzel was hand delivered to the Planning Commission. A copy of the letter is included with the official record from this meeting.

A brief discussion was held on the Comprehensive Plan vision statement. Suggestions from the City Council and Citizens Advisory Committee were provided. It was noted the vision statement will ultimately be composed by the Planning Commission members.

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