

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
ROOM 126 MULTNOMAH BUILDING
501 SE HAWTHORNE BLVD. PORTLAND, OR
JANUARY 21, 2015 6:00 PM

MEETING SUMMARY

I. Greetings, Announcements and Introductions

In attendance:

CAC

Aaron Blake
Andrew Holtz
Catherine Dishion
George Sowder
Jerry Grossnickle
Kathy Taggart
Linden Burk
Marcy Cottrell Houle
Martha Berndt
Paula Sauvageau
Ray Davenport
Sara Grigsby
Stephanie Nystrom
Tim Larson
Will Rasmussen
Chris Foster
John Ingle

Project Team

Rick Faith
Kevin Cook
Rithy Khut
Matt Hastie
Eryn Deeming Kehe
Allison Conkling

Absent: Karen Nashiwa

There were 9 community citizens that attended.

Rich Faith introduced himself and what his responsibility is to the project. He also introduced Kim Peoples, Multnomah County Department of Community Services Director, who greeted the CAC and thanked the members for serving on this committee. Rich introduced the project team and explained what their role is in the project. Eryn Kehe made several announcements including that members can help themselves to the food and beverages provided at the meetings.

CAC members were then asked to introduce themselves, provide what perspective they bring to the group, what their hopes are and what they expect will come out of this group.

Public comments are held at the end of the meeting for this time, but could be placed at the beginning of the agenda for future meetings.

II. Project Overview and CAC Role

Rich informed the committee that Jed Tomkins, Assistant County Attorney, was supposed be here tonight to talk about what the comprehensive plan is and what needs to be considered when writing policies. Jed could not be here because he is ill, so Kevin Cook is filling in for him. Jed is willing to come to the next meeting to answer questions if the committee feels there is need for more information.

Kevin explained that a comprehensive plan is a guiding document for land use across the county. This is a rural document which means that Portland, Gresham, Troutdale all have their own comprehensive plans and are responsible for planning within their borders. For the Multnomah Comprehensive Plan we will be looking at the rural areas in the west and east, bisected by the urban areas. In Oregon, cities and counties are required to have a comprehensive planning document. The cities are required to update those periodically but counties do not have that mandate. The land use planning goals will inform us of what our focus is in the context of what is important in the communities. There are also a number of county initiatives that we may be using to look at the policies. The comprehensive plan has a narrative piece that describes the issue and gives context to the plan which forms the policies. It has broad goals to get out the issue and provide broad direction but shouldn't look like code language.

There will be very limited attention to the NSA because the county is in compliance with NSA rules, which supersede Oregon land use law and control what can happen in the Gorge Scenic Area.

The items the committee should be mindful of when writing up policies are:

- the degree of specificity
- consequences
- is it legal, jurisdiction
- efficiency
- feasibility and fiscal impact

The comprehensive plan update is to consolidate the rural plans and make it into one plan.

The transportation system plan specifically addresses transportation issues and the guidelines that must go into a transportation plan. It will be a separate document but will be referenced in the comprehensive plan.

The county development/zoning code covers what occurs on the land, what uses are permitted and how the land is developed. Our goal is to streamline the different chapters of the code into a single, unified chapter.

As policies are developed and we have the means to come up with the language in the code that doesn't involve extensive research which can be done within the time and resources that we have, then we will be bringing forward code language as well. Another area of where there may be new code language is areas where we might identify deficiencies.

Matt expressed that there is a FAQ document that will be updated as questions are brought up.

Matt explained the project time line and what is going to be covered in the coming year. This information will also be available on the website.

The question of what does development mean was brought up. The definition is broad and means any man-made change including grading per Kevin Cook.

Matt reviewed the schedule of the project and what has been completed to date. Eryn reminded the CAC members that we are asking them to be involved for a 12 month time frame.

Rich mentioned that several forums have been used so far to solicit opinions from Multnomah county residences about what issues are important to them. We had the open houses Nov 5 & 6 and the online open house asking people to tell us what's on their minds. Comments were gathered and put into a summary

Major themes that kept coming up from open houses and the online comments - preserve rural character in the county, simplify and speed up process, more flexibility for land owners, conflict between bicyclist and cars, speeding enforcement and pedestrian safety, transportation service, and support small business development.

III. CAC Protocols

These are operational guidelines on how the committee operates and how decisions are made. It's important that we all have a sense of the guidelines and that we all agree to adhere to them.

Eryn reviewed the introductory statement and the meeting ground rules which are listed in the handout given to the members. The key pieces to these rules are that you are making recommendations to the staff who will share them with the planning commission. Hopefully, at some point, the members will be comfortable enough to talk with the planning commission themselves. It's important for the members to understand how the hierarchy works.

A CAC member recommended that we use the "parking lot" idea, so if something is brought up that is not on the agenda we will know to address it in the future. Eryn agreed and said that this idea will be included in the ground rules.

All agreed that if we can't end the meeting on time then we will take a vote on how long the meeting will go over.

Eryn encouraged the members to prepare for the meetings before they come.

Discussions outside the group are encouraged. If there is an issue/problem that you're hearing about, bring them to the table. Feed back is important.

If you have a question that you want to discuss at the next meeting please give it to staff 5 days prior to the meeting in order to give us time to research.

Disagreements should be worked out at the meetings or scheduled for a specific time outside the meetings.

To take any votes on a committee recommendation there must be a quorum at the meeting. If there is less than a quorum, the meetings can still occur but no recommendations will be voted on.

When people don't show up then it affects the progress of the project. It was agreed that if you miss any meetings you must go online and review what was discussed.

The group's decisions will be final unless all members agree to reopen a decision. Minority opinions will be conveyed in notes. If you can't come to a recommendation through consensus, then the decision is made by staff who will then take it to the planning commission.

When there is policy language that the committee recommends but the staff changes later due to compliance issues with state laws or otherwise, please have the staff tell the committee at that time or as soon as possible, when their recommendations are made.

The staff will come back to the committee with suggested ground rules on what to do if a member doesn't attend regularly and when to replace members who step down.

Eryn suggested that the staff go back and work out a new bullet that clarifies what the committee expects if the staff feels differently about policy language that the committee recommends and how it's going to be handled.

When there is an issue that just can't be worked out to reach consensus, mediation may be used.

Policies adopted will remain in existence and possibly be used as the foundation for other areas that need to be updated.

The comprehensive plan will be organized around 7 topic areas which are in the handout given to committee. Four subcommittees will be formed to tackle these areas to supplement committee members with knowledge on these topics.

It was suggested that wildlife be added to the topic of Air, Land, Water and Hazards.

A website link will be provided for members to review any comments that are received.

IV. Meeting Process and Schedule

It was agreed that the meetings will be held on the 4th Wednesday of each month at the Multnomah Building.

V. Other Order of Business

Rich mentioned that packets for future meetings will be emailed to each member, but that paper copies can be provided at the meetings upon request. After further discussion it was decided that packets will be emailed in advance, but that a paper copy will be provided for each member at the meeting.

VI. Public Comment

Dick Springer introduced himself. He has a home on Sauvie Island and his day job is to manage the West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District. He offered his services as a resource for the CAC.

Carol Chesarek from the West Hills felt that there was controversy with the Sauvie Island plan and she was concerned about Rich's comment that they are using that as a model for this group and that their recommendations were being thrown out. Rich responded to clarify that we are not going to throw away what comes out of the Sauvie Island/Multnomah Channel Plan. Hopefully policies adopted in that plan can be applied and adopted county wide as part of the County Comprehensive Plan.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.