



City of Liberty
April 22nd, 2024, Planning Commission Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Approved May 28th, 2024

Board Members Present:

Hester Elrod
Gerald Wilson
Karin Shore
Bo McDonald

Staff Present:

Jennifer Vissage
Jake Whitmire

Opening of Meeting/Establishment of Quorum

Chairperson McDonald opened the meeting at 6 PM and stated that a quorum was established.

General Public Comments

No public comments were received.

Election of Officers

Chairperson McDonald stated that the Planning Commission needed to select officers for the year. He nominated Hester Elrod as Chairperson and Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to elect Mrs. Elrod as Chairperson.

Mrs. Shore nominated Gerald Wilson to be vice chairperson and Mrs. Elrod seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to elect Mr. Wilson as vice chairperson.

The board has agreed to have staff continue to be secretary.

Comprehensive Plan Update

A great discussion was held about the public input meetings. Jake Whitmire gave an update on all the topics discussed at all three meetings. Popular topics included affordable housing, downtown revitalization, recreational opportunities, and smart growth. These topics can be included in the overall goals of the comprehensive plan. The recap of those meetings is attached. Topics that were discussed during the planning commission meeting were:

- 1) Impact fees are a critical issue for the Planning Commission. It needs to be included in the comprehensive plan as recommendation for council to start the process.
- 2) Affordable housing is something that needs to be defined in the comprehensive plan process so that that the commission and the council know where to begin and what to target for future growth.
- 3) There is a need to improve the ordinances for beautification and code enforcement.
- 4) Downtown revitalization/rehabilitation needs to be a priority.

The next steps for the comprehensive plan include goals and the future land use map. At the next meeting, board members need to bring their goals to the table ready to discuss. The Future Land Use Map also needs to be addressed and finalized at the next meeting. Once goals and the map are set, we can begin the discussion of taking the comprehensive plan to the council.

Other Business:

Concerns from Planning Commissioners:

- a. Communication between council and staff with the board
- b. There were no heads up about the visual preference survey. Board members felt that they were not given notice and could have helped get the word out about the survey. Jake stated that the board was informed about the survey at the March 5th meeting.
- c. Board members were not informed about a new board member being appointed to the board and felt they should have some say in it. Staff stated that is a council decision and council is the one that appoints all new board members.
- d. Communication among the board members. There needs to be a way to communicate with the board members other than email. The board needs a place to store documents and be able to communicate easily. Staff stated that would investigate this for the board.

Adjournment

Chairperson Elrod adjourned the meeting at 7 PM.