

Montpelier Planning Commission
August 12, 2008
City Council Chambers, City Hall

Subject to Review and Approval

Present: David Borgendale, Vice Chair, Karen Vogan, Jesse Moorman, Claire Benedict, Lucia Bragg, Gwendolyn Hallsmith.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by David Borgendale, Vice Chair, at 7:09.

Review of Minutes: Since there were not enough people to approve the minutes, review of the minutes from July 14, 2008 was deferred until the next meeting.

Election of Chair: This was tabled until the next meeting. David Borgendale promised to send a note to the rest of the board saying that anyone who didn't show up for the September 8th meeting would be elected chair.

New Member Welcome: Jesse Moorman, the new member of the Planning Commission, was welcomed as the new member.

I. Review of enVision Goals

The Planning Commission discussed the goals and vision that were prepared by the stakeholder group. They suggested three changes: 1) language in the vision statement that talked about how Montpelier is a great place to raise a family, 2) language in the vision statement that talks about building a regional community, and 3) language about being safe at home to the social system goals.

Karen Vogan moved to adopt the goals and recommend them to the City Council. Claire Benedict seconded the motion. It passed 5-0-0.

II. Emergency Planning

The Planning Commission had an update on the winter preparedness planning that is being done. Lucia, Claire, and Karen all expressed an interest in being part of the initiative.

III. Stakeholder Meeting in September

The Back to School stakeholder meeting is planned for September 3 at 6:15 in the library of the Montpelier High School. The school board has asked the stakeholder group for feedback on their strategic plan. The planning commissioners are all welcome (expected?) to attend this meeting – this will be the organizational meeting for the year, so it will be important to meet with the different committees and to identify people who are missing from the committees during the next phase of planning, which involves developing strategies and action plans to achieve the goals that have been set.

IV. Fall Schedule

The Planning Commission will meet on September 8, October 14 and 27, November 10 and 24, and December 8. The enVision Stakeholders will meet on September 3, October 7, November 5, and December 2.

V. Update on Growth Center and Capital City Challenge

The Planning group of the Downtown Board met with the planning staff and consultant for several hours on August 26th to discuss the preliminary growth center application. They had a number of questions about the application, but our concerns that they would want to reduce the size of it substantially don't appear to be an issue. We do want to look at the commercial areas we have identified in the growth center, because the projections came out with a possible increase of 400,000 square feet of commercial space. I have a sense that there might be an error in the area they had delineated to be the growth center, because the only way that would be possible is if the National Life site was included, but it isn't.

The Capital City Challenge has taken a bit of a summer break, largely due to all the work involved in the Pyralisk Park development. We will resume discussion of the way forward at the conference in Durban in September, since staff and officials from both Montpelier and Olympia will be there. Mary Hooper is attending with Gwen from September 14th to September 19th.

Claire Benedict moved to adjourn at 8:27. Karen Vogan seconded. It passed unanimously.