

Montpelier Planning Commission
January 24, 2011
City Council Chambers City Hall

Subject to Review and Approval

Present: Jesse Moorman, Chair; David Borgendale, Vice Chairman; Tina Ruth, Jon Anderson

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Jesse Moorman, Chair, at 7:00 P.M.

Comments from the Chair:

Jesse Moorman welcomed Jon Anderson as a new member of the Planning Commission and asked him to give them some background about himself.

Jon Anderson said he is happy to be here. He is a lawyer and a lot of his practice is land use and real estate so he does a lot of zoning work and he was a member of the Planning Commission in the late 1980's. He has been a resident of Montpelier since 1980.

Review and Approval of Minutes for October 25th and November 22, 2010:

There was no review and approval of the minutes for a lack of a quorum of those attending to approve them.

Discussion of the Zoning Project:

They are in the initial phase of the zoning revision work. There were two neighborhood meetings. The first involved College Hill, Meadow and North Street neighborhoods, and the second one was Park West and Toy Town. He and Tina Ruth attended both. Some good comments came out of those. They are in this main phase right now where as Commissioners their main job is to listen and to learn. The main thing right now is to meet with the neighborhoods and get the survey out and elicit the input from our neighbors. Someone at the last meeting commented about how to distribute the survey. They pushed the meetings back a little bit and the survey which is on the web site right now is being distributed in hard copy with the Annual Reports to every neighbor in town by mid February.

Mr. Moorman said he wanted to talk about the Commission's Members coverage of the neighborhood meetings. He would like to have at least one Commission Member at every meeting. He personally is going to make an effort to go to every meeting. It is helpful not to only meet their neighbors but to also listen to their different comments which will really inform our discussions later on in terms of what we are going to do in revising the zoning bylaws.

The Planning Commission discussed the scheduled neighborhood meetings, dates and attendance by Members at the meetings.

The second neighborhood meetings might happen in March into April or May. They will take the summer to start writing neighborhood development standards and then meeting in early fall neighborhood by neighborhood.

The task to the Planning Commission is to really use our ears at these meetings and listen to the ideas and comments and to educate ourselves about zoning types, etc. The Planning Commission is not going to hold a meeting in February and have a little homework in the interim. There is a Washington, D.C. based study of different communities and how they have done neighborhood zoning. During February review that and there will be a lot of little neighborhood meetings in the next couple of months. Give a look at the Annual Report that comes in your mailbox and then we will meet once in March as a Planning Commission.

The Regional Planning Commission is in the process of doing the boundary study we have commissioned. They hope to have that completed in August. This is just for Montpelier and it was paid for by a grant.

Adjournment:

Upon a motion by David Borgendale and Tina Ruth the Planning Commission adjourned.

Transcribed by: Joan Clack