

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

July 20, 2010

6:00 p.m.

County Complex, Building A

1. Roll Call

Present

Mr. Jack Fraley, Chair

Mr. Reese Peck

Absent

Mr. Al Woods

Others Present

Mr. Allen Murphy

Mr. Chris Johnson

Ms. Tammy Rosario

Mr. Jason Purse

Ms. Terry Costello

Other Commissioners Present

Mr. Rich Krapf

Mr. Joe Poole

Mr. Jack Fraley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Minutes

A. March 17, 2010

Mr. Reese Peck moved for approval of the minutes.

In a unanimous voice vote, the minutes were approved (2-0).

B. May 12, 2010

Mr. Peck moved for approval of the minutes.

In a unanimous voice vote, the minutes were approved. (2-0)

3. Old Business

There was no old business.

4. New Business

A. Planning Commission Annual Report & Comprehensive Plan Progress

Mr. Jason Purse distributed information with staff's suggestions on improving the annual report and incorporating the progress report. Suggestions included the report to be less narrative, more graphics and data. It was also suggested to have maps showing where development is occurring. Mr. Purse suggested that the Progress Report have a one page summary with the top five or ten accomplishments for the year. He stated that staff would be updating the goals, strategies and actions on the website in order to keep the public informed.

Mr. Peck distributed the City of Waynesboro's Annual Report as an example. He highlighted how they listed the growth trends and how their high priority items were listed.

Mr. Fraley would like to highlight just the County's high priority items.

Mr. Krapf suggested exception reporting in addition to highlighting the high priority items.

Mr. Fraley stated that the report may become long and would not keep the public engaged.

Mr. Peck suggested that at the next meeting the Committee highlight the items that might be included on the progress report.

Ms. Sarah Kadec, a citizen, spoke and expressed her desire to see updates on the website.

B. Planning Commission / Board of Supervisors Worksession Agenda Discussion

Ms. Tammy Rosario discussed the information that was sent to the Committee with talking points, priority items, topics that might be of interest for discussion, and what follow-up may be desired for each topic.

Mr. Fraley would like to obtain more guidance from the Board of Supervisors with regards to the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Fraley would like to see more illustrations and detail in the Ordinance that take direct translation from the Comprehensive plan. He also requested staff to do some research on property maintenance and sign proliferations. He did state however, that this may be a topic for a future worksession, not the upcoming one.

Mr. Poole stated that in regards to a property maintenance code that it was important to address enforcement that may already be in place.

Ms. Rosario stated that the Zoning Office is fully integrated in the Zoning Ordinance update.

A discussion then took place as to what the Committee would like to see between the Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning Ordinance. Mr. Poole stated that he felt the Comprehensive Plan was a general guide, and to weave this document and the Zoning Ordinance would not benefit land use planners.

Mr. Peck feels that the Zoning Ordinance should be more specific and applicable.

Mr. Fraley stated that he felt that the current ordinance was too general and that he felt more specificity would be beneficial.

The Committee then agreed that it seems that the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors priorities are not the same. They stated it was important to ask for guidance from the Board of Supervisors at the worksession. The Committee feels that it is important to know the priorities of the Board of Supervisors when making land use decisions.

The Committee then went through the list of topics for discussion at the worksession. Mr. Peck stated that he felt it was important to be clear as to the level of specificity for each topic. It may be beneficial to rank in order with some clear definitions.

Mr. Poole added that he felt it was important to discourage any conversations before the work session so that the entire Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors could discuss items without any predetermined concepts.

Mr. Fraley stressed the importance of non-partisanship during this process, and would like the full support of the Board of Supervisors in moving forward.

The Committee agreed that it was important for the Planning Commission to present a united voice, and encourage open discussion about fundamental issues. In order to provide a quality product it was important to obtain feedback. The Committee stressed the importance of getting feedback from the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Jack Fowler, a citizen, spoke on the importance of listening to the public, especially for those speaking as individuals, and not part of a group. He spoke on the importance of predictability and the importance of not extending the Primary Service Area (PSA) when deciding land use cases.

C. Planning Commission Public Comment Session Format

Mr. Fraley stated that he has requested the County Attorney's office to streamline the protocol for public comment sessions. There are three options to consider:

1. Keep it the same with the modifications that were used at the last meeting
2. Eliminate public comment periods
3. Have it at the end of the meeting

Mr. Poole stated his concerns over how the public comment period has been used in the past. He felt that some comments facilitate various conversations that take away from the meeting. Some topics mentioned he felt were outside the purview of the Planning Commission.

It was decided to keep the public comment period, and have it at the beginning of the meeting. The Committee felt that if it were at the end, citizens may not stay to express their concerns. The Committee also decided to keep the public comment period rather than eliminate, since some comments can influence something that is being deliberated at that particular meeting.

A citizen stated his opinion that it was important for citizens to express their views on any topic. It was also mentioned that the Board of Supervisors does have an open session for citizens to speak about anything.

Ms. Rosario went through the format for the public forum sessions will be similar to the sessions held during the Comprehensive Plan process. Three topic areas will be selected for each meeting, and speakers will be asked to complete an application ahead of time so time can be scheduled. Advertisement will be done on the website, newspaper and on Channel 48.

5. Adjournment

Mr. Peck moved for adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.



Jack Fraley, Chair of the Policy Committee