

Notes of the Comprehensive Plan Meeting held Monday, October 19, 2009 at
7:00 p.m. at Lava City Hall, 115 West Elm, Lava Hot Springs, Idaho

Present: Susan Lorenz (SICOG), Mark Lowe, Mike Vice, Cathy Sher, Vicky Lyon,
and Trish Avery

Groan Zone: Susan gave a mini presentation on group work. She shared information from the Facilitator's Guide to Participatory Decision-Making section: What makes an agreement sustainable? This section states; "When a group attempts to solve a difficult problem as though it were a routine problem, they will very likely make a decision that simply does not work. The implementation will break down and the group will find itself, sooner or later, back where it began." The committee discussed that need to spend the time needed to write a good plan. However it was also expressed that there are people such as the Planning and Zoning Commission that are waiting on for the comprehensive plan to being completed before they can make the needed updates to the zoning ordinance. It is appealing to place a moratorium on making decisions on un-zones areas but not feasible due to short life of a moratorium and the cost.

The committee also reviewed the section: Agenda Planning Roles. This section suggests that the facilitator and the person-in-charge are to be different people. Susan suggested that as the committee moves forward on the comprehensive plan, there be assigned a committee member to work with her to plan the agendas. The committee suggested the committee member take turns acting as the person-in-charge.

Feedback from Pocatello City Planner

Susan reported that she had spoke with Matt Lewis, Pocatello City Planner. He told her that maps can be a useful tool as we go through each chapter, but we should wait until we have gone through all the chapters before trying to complete the maps. We give clear directions to planning and zoning for the future. The committee does not need to know exactly how the Planning & Zoning Commission and City Council are going to implement the comprehensive plan to complete the plan.

Trish reported that she had briefly reviewed Sun Valley's comprehensive plan. She was impressed with how their plan was laid out. Each chapter started with a vision then listed goals, objectives and action items to achieve the vision for the chapter. She also noted that Sun Valley has addressed some of the same concerns that Lava is facing. Susan commented that it is good to review the comprehensive plans of other destination tourism communities as they can give us ideas of how to

address similar issues. We may not want to be as large as Sun Valley, but their work can still help us as we write our plan.

Field Trip: Cathy reported that although the group had not been able to get together to take a field trip to the Centennial Trail; she, Vicky and Mark each went separately. She reported that the trail was created to help meet the hiking needs of the visitors. She noted that not as much area needed to be protected as she had expected. This is a nice access for visitors and helps keep the neighborhoods free of traffic.

Vicky reported that she had noticed that the trailhead point was very close to downtown. The access point is on city property (South 3rd East) and the trail is on private property. The trail does act as a natural barrier between the commercial and residential zones.

Mark stated that as the city expands in residential and commercial and mixed use, the citizens may like to preserve this trail and this access point. However, moving the access point to a less steep area would be an acceptable option.

It was suggested that next time we make a map we should make it lighter so the trail will show up better.

The committee discussed the trail. It was suggested that the trail needs to serve as a buffer and as we rezone areas there should be provided buffers between high density or commercial zone and low density residential zone.

Plan next work session: Housing Chapter

The comp plan committee is interested in the vision for the future held by those who live inside the community and those who live outside the community. We are seeking vision by inviting individuals who have made it know that they have a vision for the city. Individuals are going to be invited to share their visions with the Comprehensive Planning Committee.

The committee would like to hear from individuals with knowledge in architecture, engineering, soils, geology, watershed, wildlife/urban interface, compatibility, housing & development possibilities, etc. The committee discussed possible individuals who could be invited to present information concerning housing issues.

The committee decided to invite the following individuals and assignments were made regarding who will contact each:
Susan Lorenz will call Jennifer Jackson at Fish and Game

Trish will call Steve Jones and Pam Slaughter – housing and development
Vicky will call Cheryl Hansen – architecture, engineering, watershed

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 18, 2009 at 6 p.m. This meeting will be a work session with three (3) presenters.

Susan will email Rebecca's notes and her notes from tonight notes.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.