

City of Colville

PLANNING COMMISSION

February 23, 2011

7:00 P.M. – City Hall

MINUTES

The Colville Planning Commission met for a regular meeting on Wednesday, February 23, 2011, in the Council Room at City Hall. Chairperson Jody Hoffman called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. with a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Alan Bedford, Bruce Dietz, Jody Hoffman, Brenda Buckner, Russ Larsen, Dee Hokom and Trudy Lundy. STAFF PRESENT: Assistant Planner Melinda Lee and Recording Secretary Susan Davis.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting of November 17, 2010 had been distributed to each member prior to the meeting. Russ Larsen moved and Alan Bedford seconded the motion to approve the minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Hoffman welcomed Brenda Buckner to the Commission and introductions followed.

OLD BUSINESS

A. General discussion – Comprehensive Plan Status.

Assistant Planner Melinda Lee reported that the draft 2010 Comprehensive Plan was presented to the City Council at a public hearing in December 2010. It was the decision of the Council to schedule additional public hearings on each element to allow more time for review and public input. A schedule outlining the Council's review procedure had been distributed to each member prior to the meeting (copy on file).

Melinda advised that the Council held a public hearing on February 22nd on the Park & Recreation Element and the Historic Preservation Element. One public comment was received from Tom O'Brien who expressed appreciation for recognition of new or renovated tennis courts in the element as a benefit to the community.

City Councilmembers requested clarification and suggested changes to the Park & Recreation Element as follows:

- Define specific goals – there are only policies listed
- Change “policies” to “objectives” to serve as a guide
- Define terms (i.e., pocket park) and make sure there is consistency in the terminology used throughout the document
- Clarify the adopted level of service standards for parks
- Research whether trails/paths in the public right-of-way could be considered parks/open space and determine how that would fit into the equation

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- Include the skate park in the element as a desire of the community
- Separate goals and objectives between Parks and Recreation in the element because they are two different things
- In each element develop vision statements rather than mission statements, which are too specific

General discussion followed regarding parks. Melinda explained that the term “pocket park” as contained in the element would be something like a small rest area along a pedestrian path, a trailhead, shelter, or similar area. Additionally, she pointed out as we try to achieve our level of service standard (LOS) for new neighborhood parks the lack of available land should be recognized. Brenda Buckner felt as new neighborhood parks are proposed in the future consideration should be given to location, maintenance, and public safety. She also asked if the City ever acquired land for park space, and it was confirmed that was the case for Angus McDonald Park. Melinda confirmed that the Land Division Ordinance requires consideration of parks during review and approval of new developments. New parks have not been required of new developments for some time because we exceed our LOS for total park acreage based on population.

Melinda advised that a proposed Pedestrian & Bicycle Plan is included in the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan. Once adopted the City can be more proactive in its efforts to pursue opportunities for non-motorized transportation.

Melinda reported that the City Councilmembers requested the following changes to the Historic Preservation Element:

- Define abbreviations and acronyms used in the text
- Reword Goal #1 to specifically relate to historic preservation
- Questioned the appropriateness of Goal #6, which is to promote the recognition of local artists and artisans

The Historic Preservation Commission’s role concerning the painting of historic buildings was brought up at City Council. Staff explained the Historic Preservation Commission does not regulate aesthetics.

If interested, the Commissioners were encouraged to attend the City Council’s public hearings on the remaining elements of the Comprehensive Plan.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Planning Short Course.

Melinda advised that staff is trying to schedule a Short Course on Local Planning here this spring through the Department of Commerce. The Commission will be kept informed as information becomes available.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: There were no public comments.

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REPORTS

Russ Larsen reported that the Colville to Kettle Falls Bike Trail Committee has not met in over a year. No further progress has been made on the project.

Melinda Lee reported that at its meeting today the Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) decided not to schedule a transportation summit to address regional transportation needs until viable funding becomes available.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to come before the Commission, Alan Bedford moved and Russ Larsen seconded the motion to adjourn. There were no objections and the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 P.M.