

**CITY OF COVINGTON  
Planning Commission Minutes**

**August 21, 2014**

**City Hall Council Chambers**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Max called the regular meeting of the Planning Commission to order at 6:35 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jennifer Gilbert-Smith, Bill Judd, Jim Langehough, Paul Max, and Alex White

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Ed Holmes and Sean Smith

**STAFF PRESENT**

Angie Feser, Parks Planner  
Richard Hart, Community Development Director  
Salina Lyons, Principal Planner  
Ann Mueller, Senior Planner  
Kelly Thompson, Planning Commission Secretary

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

- **1. Commissioner White moved and Commissioner Gilbert-Smith seconded to approve the minutes and consent agenda. Motion carried 5-0.**

**CITIZEN COMMENTS – None**

**PUBLIC HEARING - None**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2. 2015 Comprehensive Plan Update Joint Commission Workshop with Covington's Economic Development Committee, Arts Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission**

Richard thanked all of the commissioners and committee members for attending the meeting. Our consultant will be providing an opportunity for input and eventually get to a public hearing before the planning commission and later the city council. You will be able to take this information back to your respective commissions.

Mr. Hart introduced Bill Grimes, the city's consultant with Studio Cascade. It is a state requirement for cities to conduct an annual Comprehensive Plan Update. It has been about 10 years since the city has gone through this extensive of a process. This plan guides our growth and development over the next couple of decades.

After a round of introductions, Bill gave a presentation to explain which parts of the Comprehensive Plan are being focused on during the update. He described the process that they have gone through that included determining the vision and the storefront studio. The vision will underpin everything that we do in the comprehensive plan.

One of the participants asked about how we are defining "destination." Mr. Hart explained that Covington is a place you want to live and work in as opposed to a city you pass through.

Covington is growing at a relatively high rate and forecasts predict over 20,000 by the year 2035. He touched on education level, commute, household size, household income and median house prices in comparison to King County.

People are talking about the town center and promise it will offer. On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, we asked people to help us to make sure the vision is still relevant. People were asked about several topics including family friendly, pedestrian friendly, affordable housing, living wage jobs, parks and recreation and natural environment.

The store front studio was open for 4 days in July and worked on policy priorities, roadway and public spaces, managing mobility and balance, transportation.

One of the participants asked about input from the 18 and under crowd. Ann went to the high school and elementary schools, and sent information to principals, but did not feedback. Ann said once school starts, we can reach out to leadership groups or athletic groups.

Parents have expressed concern about safe walking routes to schools.

Workshop participants were asked to evaluate 4 policy points by priority, funding, timeline, and strategy. The workshop participants spent approximately 45 minutes reviewing and discussing their priorities.

Goals are the destination (long range), policies are the individual statements that guide the city's actions, objectives are the mileposts along the way, programs are the actions that implement the policies that help you achieve the goals.

### **ATTENDANCE VOTE**

- **Commissioner Gilbert-Smith moved and Commissioner White seconded to excuse the absence of Chair Smith and Commissioner Holmes. Motion carried 5-0.**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT – None**

### **COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF**

Salina reported that the city council adopted the multifamily tax exemption and development agreement for the inland group.

Cancelling September 4<sup>th</sup> pc meeting, no august 26 city council meeting.

Bill asked about the process moving forward. The consultant team is working on different elements and will come back with a policy analysis assessment. Staff will bring this back to the PC.

### **ADJOURN**

The August 21, 2014 Planning Commission Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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Kelly Thompson, Planning Commission Secretary

