

PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
Meeting as the Citizens Advisory Committee for the TSP Update
May 22, 2014 7:00 PM
NEWBERG PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING (401 EAST THIRD STREET)

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Art Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present:	Art Smith, Chair	Gary Bliss	Jason Dale
	Allyn Edwards	Matt Fortner	Philip Smith
	Cathy Stuhr		

Members Absent: Sulamita Barbiyeru, Student Commissioner (excused) Mayor Andrews, ex-officio

Staff Present:	Steve Olson, interim planning & building director	Jessica Pelz, associate planner
	Jay Harris, city engineer	Mandy Dillman, minutes recorder

Others Present: Karl Birky, transportation system plan advisory board member

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Smith opened and closed public comments, as there was no one to testify.

IV. WORKSHOP: Transportation System Plan (TSP) update.

Ms. Jessica Pelz introduced the speakers and opened the TSP update meeting.

Mr. Carl Springer and Mr. Garth Appanaitis, transportation engineers with DKS Associates, presented an update on the TSP process accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation (see official meeting packet for full report).

Commissioner Cathy Stuhr asked how their plan, which goes until 2035, is linked to the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) plans. Mr. Appanaitis explained they plan until 2035; however, the plan is then updated every five to ten years to coincide with changes happening in real time. Commissioner Philip Smith asked who the stakeholders were that they interviewed in March. Mr. Appanaitis replied the planning staff came up with a list of persons of interest throughout the community including those with development interests, some from the hospital, some from the Downtown Coalition, and more. Mr. Springer explained it is the same group of people they interviewed the previous time; however, this time they asked them before finalizing the plan so they could give input. Commissioner Smith suggested they include the Friends of Yamhill County in their discussions next time to help facilitate interactions between them and the city. Ms. Pelz said they had done a sensitivity testing and Mr. Appanaitis said they are required to look at the existing UGB plan, whether it is put into place or not. Chair Smith suggested they add people who are involved in commuting to and from work like industries and the airport. Ms. Pelz said they would add them and explained the purpose of the open houses was to provide those entities with an opportunity to learn; however, not many people came. Discussion commenced on how the plan focuses on livability of Newberg and how public safety should be included.

Discussion commenced on the amount of travel currently occurring downtown during peak hours, which is 1500-1900 cars each direction, however they expect it to decrease when the bypass is put in place, and then slowly return to present levels. They discussed the NDC public meetings, where people are brainstorming ways

to revitalize the downtown corridor with ideas like turning both one way streets back to two way, removing a lane from each one way street to create bike lanes or parking, making wider sidewalks, and making the downtown more pedestrian and bike friendly overall. No decisions have been made on how to proceed, but the city is currently applying for a planning grant for potential changes to the streets. It was further discussed the best time to implement any plan downtown would be immediately after the bypass is opened since there is an expected decrease in traffic, but the reality is the bypass first phase, as a two lane road not directly connected to 99W, will not create a huge drop in traffic in Newberg. Commissioners also discussed ideas like parking garages and pedestrian sky bridges, and compared Newberg's downtown area to other cities.

Discussion commenced on the Highway 219/2nd median, and the need for a Highway 219/Everest traffic light.

In conclusion, they discussed pedestrian accessibility in town and the College Street sidewalk project. It was mentioned the sidewalk is being paid in part by a Local Improvement District (LID) and partially by a grant from Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to complete the entire length on the west side.

Ms. Pelz explained there would be one more citizen's advisory committee meeting in August, and then after evaluation and an additional open house, they would bring the updated objectives back to the planning commission. She concluded by saying even though items are in order on the priority list, if funding presents itself for an item less important, it will be completed first. Additionally it was discussed how taxes are distributed in regards to city projects.

V. ITEMS FROM STAFF

1. Update on Council items

Mr. Steve Olson, interim planning and building director, reminded the commission of their continued meeting on a housing development project next month. Ms. Pelz updated the commission on the UGB and explained city council voted to start the mediation assessment process.

2. Other reports, letters or correspondence

None Appeared.

3. Next Planning Commission meeting: June 12, 2014

VI. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

None appeared.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Approved by the Newberg Planning Commission this 10th day of July, 2014.

AYES:

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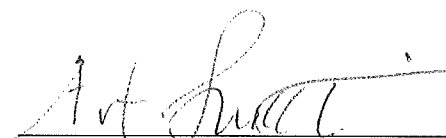
NO:

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ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:


Minutes Recorder


Planning Commission Chair