

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
STEERING COMMITTEE
CITY OF HUDSON
Monday, May 4, 2020

The Hudson Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee meeting was called to order by Johnson at 1:03 p.m.

PRESENT. Rich O'Connor (joined at 1:20pm), Fred Yoerg, Tiffany Weiss, Michael Mroz, Michael Johnson, Aaron Reeves, and Jim Webber.

ABSENT. None.

OTHERS PRESENT. Brea Grace and Nate Day.

Discussion and possible action on April 13, 2020 meeting minutes. Motion by Webber, seconded by Yoerg to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2020 Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. All Ayes (6). Motion Carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

None.

NEW BUSINESS.

Discussion on Community Survey Results. Grace summarized what staff and SEH have done since the last meeting to provide further public outreach of residents. Weiss noted that, in relation to the postcard mailing that went out, there was a note on the postcard that gave residents the option to request hardcopies of the survey to be mailed to them. So far, staff had received 4 requests for surveys to be mailed. Staff is expecting more requests to come in throughout the week.

Mroz requested that staff provide hard copies of the surveys or bookmarks at the polls during the following week's elections.

Discussion on Drafted Comprehensive Plan Chapters. Grace noted that SEH is gathering further background information via data analysis and that although goals and policies are mentioned in each of the sections, this information will need to be refined over time through feedback received at the Public Involvement Meetings.

Johnson asked what things stood out to SEH in comparison to other communities. Grace noted that renter occupied vs owner occupied ratios were different from other communities and told an interesting story themselves. Yoerg added that new homeowners are probably partly renting out their units to others to offset the mortgage costs.

Yoerg noted that the comp plan steering committee should now try to answer the question 'How do we accommodate people on the lower end of the scale when developers says they can't afford to build cheaper homes?'

Webber inquired if there would be a possibility to incorporate United Way's ALICE Project criteria of housing affordability rankings into the report. ALICE is an acronym that stands for 'Asset' 'Limited'

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'Income Constrained' and 'Employed'. Several states are implementing the ranking system, Wisconsin being one of the more recent to join the project. Grace said it could certainly be considered as an inclusion into the drafted chapter.

Yoerg noted the old Lighthouse Plat that required some Habitat for Humanity housing and asked what the possibility of implementing that in other places around the city would be. Reeves remarked that developers are pushing back against affordable housing requirements and inclusionary zoning (notably in the Minneapolis/Twin Cities region) and said it mainly comes down to 'what's the incentive to give back from the city's standpoint?' What will the city give in return for requiring developers to build affordable housing (e.g. flexibility in parking or green space requirements) to make it more appealing?

Weiss inquired if the drafted chapters would be put up on the comprehensive plan project website for residents to review and provide feedback and Grace answered "Yes, they will be uploaded to the project website once the Steering Committee has given a good thorough review of the chapters."

Johnson moved the discussion forward from Housing to Transportation. Day explained that SEH used the 2009 Comprehensive Plan to provide a short summary of existing conditions. He also noted that cities nowadays seem to be striving more toward multi-modal and complete street transportation systems, and so SEH would be putting more focus on that in the goals and recommendations section of the chapter.

Yoerg inquired about traffic alleviation proposals (such as connecting streets to one another by using current infrastructure that exists rather than building new roads, especially in situations where it is not necessary so that the City can save money) by moving traffic from higher traffic count roads to lower traffic count roads. On that note, Webber expressed concerns about traffic being deviated from Carmichael Road through the Stonepine Neighborhood (since the neighborhood roads have lower speeds than Carmichael Road).

Day inquired if anything else should be added to the transportation report and Johnson noted that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan (currently being drafted by city staff) should be cited in the comprehensive plan to provide an overall comprehensive look at transportation in the city.

Discussion was moved to the Community Facilities drafted chapter. Grace noted that the section requires some work and that any questions or comments should be sent to Weiss who will forward the message to Grace. Johnson requested that a City Hall reconstruction be included in this section as that is foreseen on the horizon. Webber requested that the public safety/fire hall bit be rewritten as it contained outdated information about the current location of the fire station. Johnson, Weiss, and Grace will continue making edits on the Community Facilities section. Further discussion was held regarding the school system wherein Johnson requested a graphic be included that describes enrollment over time in the school district. Discussion moved on to the parks system where Webber noted that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan be cited for this section too.

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Grace moved the discussion for this item to it's closing statements, noting that the healthcare/childcare/senior living facilities section does not have any proposed goals/objectives/policies yet.

Discussion on Public Involvement Workshop #2. Discussion was held that the public involvement meeting, originally scheduled for May 28th, would be postponed to a later date due to COVID-19 concerns. Said later date will be discussed with committee members prior to scheduling.

COMMUNICATIONS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS.

Johnson requested that Committee members provide any further comments about the drafted chapters be submitted to staff within the next couple of weeks before SEH submits the drafts to the comprehensive plan project website for public viewing.

Next meeting date was scheduled for Monday, June 1, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT.

Motion by Mroz, seconded by Yoerg to adjourn at 2:07 p.m. All Ayes (7). Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Tiffany Weiss, Acting Secretary