

Olympia Planning Commission Meeting (Retreat)
July 12, 1010 5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Notes taken by Karen Veldheer 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Attendance: Keith Stahley, Cari Hornbein, and Jennifer Kenny, all the planning commissioners, Jackie Barrett-Sherer, Mike McCormick Karen Veldheer

The City Council liked the "Imagine Olympia" process and results it yielded

The idea that Olympians would like Olympia to keep a "small town feel" as it grows was a predominate

The city would like to included the Port of Olympia in it's Comp Plan -- this has been an area of much confusion over the years.

Keith Stahley would like to have the 150 issue of importance prioritized by the city in order to move forward with the Comp Plan

The city council has identified ten main areas that should be included in the Comp Plan. They are as follows as found in the Planning Commission Meeting Comprehensive Plan – Next Steps July 12, 2010 meeting handout:

1. Update the Plan as necessary to conform to the GMA requirements
2. Update the Plan's vision statement to reflect new concepts of sustainability and address climate change and other emerging issues and to reflect current interest and priorities.
3. Improve public access to the Plan by eliminating redundancy, editing for readability, and reformatting and reorganizing the document to improve accessibility and ensure its adaptation to internet searching and display.
4. Update the background information of the Plan. At a minimum this would include GMA required information plus improvements in presentation. For readability detailed data might be moved to an appendix.
5. Incorporate other related planning efforts. This task would infuse the Plan with key pieces of in-progress, recently adopted or other relevant planning documents of the city and other agencies.
6. Revise or delete specific goals as identified in the Commission's 2009 evaluation and future analysis
7. Revise the Public involvement chapter; especially with respect to utilization of new technology to inform and receive input from the public
8. Provide an opportunity for the public to assist in prioritizing issues and challenges associated with four topic of special interest:
 - a) The future of the downtown area, including relationship to the capitol campus and the Port
 - b) Neighborhood planning as a process and tool for empowering residents and

businesses;

c) A reevaluation of the high density corridors and envisioned in the regional and city plans, including adjacent lands and consideration of the needs for a West Olympia small area plan

d) Environmental stewardship in all applicable respects.

9. Address the miscellaneous list of the issues described in the staff's report of May 25, 2010 pages 7-9. These issues do not readily fall into the four main focus areas but broadly include the issues of Land Use, housing, transportation and the environment.

10. Add an action plan or implementation strategy with performance measures as an element of or supplement to the Comp Plan.

The Planning Commission will take the lead numbers 6 and 8 above. City Staff will take the lead on the rest of the ten key identified issues. However, it was noted that within the process the planning commission will review and have opportunity to comment on all staff work before it goes to the council.

Low impact development will be addressed in the Comp Plan update under the "environmental" section as noted above. When public hearings are held it will be made clear to the public specifically what issues will be covered under each topic area.

The planning commission contemplated taking a more proactive approach in advising the council on possible upcoming issues. It was determined that this would be an appropriate role of the planning commission and would mimic the other city advisory committees work. This would be a new direction for the planning commission.