

**Montpelier Planning Commission Meeting
January 22, 2018**

Subject to review and approval

Present: Leslie Welts, Kim Cheney, Barbara Conrey, Kirby Keeton, John Adams, Michael Miller.

Also present: Stephanie Smith, Jim Libby

Call to order by the Chair: The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Leslie Welts.

Approval of the agenda: The agenda was approved by consensus.

Comments from the Chair: Leslie stated she wasn't sure if Jon and Tina would be present, Mike said that Tina would not be there.

Leslie apologized for the lateness of the distribution of the sprinkler ordinance, but she sent it out as soon as she received it. She also thanked Stephanie for attending again.

Barbara asked what the process was for getting Stephanie on the commission. She said she wasn't sure when the openings were or if they've been posted.

Leslie welcomed Mike back and said he was missed at the last meeting.

General business (comments from the public about something not on the agenda): There was one member of the public in attendance, but he wished to talk about the sprinkler ordinance, but he did thank the commission for their hard work on the zoning update.

Continue discussion of next steps in 2018. Prioritizing possible projects including the official map, design review rules, e911 road naming and numbering, loan fund reorganization, and beginning new City Plan: LandWorks has been hired by the Historical Preservation Committee to work on the design review rules. Kim expressed interest in attending the first meeting. Kirby had expressed interest, but he has a meeting conflict.

e911 road naming and numbering is going to be done by the Planning & Development Office, but Mike wanted to give the Commission a heads up about it.

Community Development is working on the loan fund reorganization.

The grant for the design review rules is about \$ 8,000. It will mainly be used to set the standards. Where should the boundaries be and what do they want to accomplish is the first part of it and needs to be done by August, which is when the money runs out. The boundaries need to better align with the National Register.

Kirby mentioned that coming out of the last Regional Planning Commission, they had a presentation from Fish & Wildlife, a lot of the resources that Montpelier residents think of as great community resources, such as Hubbard Park, weren't even on the State map as something that wanted preserved, the rivers were their only concern.

Mike and the other staff are finding some glitches in the new zoning regs. They're being tagged and will be brought back to the Planning Commission.

The energy chapter might be priority, depending on what the Regional Planning Commission and the Energy Committee developments work out. It will be put on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting. Mike will check to see if any of the other chapters are close to being finalized. Kirby will bring something he will write up something to get feedback from others.

The next meeting will be to discuss things and to prioritize. A new City Council will be in place in a few months, so it might be worth it to wait and see what they want for priorities about the Master Plan.

Discussion of sprinkler ordinance and possible vote to make recommendations to City

Council: Jim Libby joined the table for the conversation on the sprinkler ordinance amendments. The document about the amendments was discussed, it was written by Councilperson Rosie Krueger.

There is no requirement that the Commission offer feedback, but they can provide thoughts and see how they weigh with the Council.

Jim Libby was on the Housing Task Force for about ten years. When the sprinkler ordinance was first proposed, they were told the cost would be about \$ 2,500 – in reality, it's around \$ 10,000. Barb attended a few of the sprinkler committee meeting and asked for statistical data but didn't receive it. The amendments are to relax the requirements, but very little. Barb has seen information that people have died from smoke inhalation because smoke doesn't activate the sprinklers, actual heat from flames does. The information that she saw indicates that sprinklers do save property, but not necessarily lives. She also discovered the properties not on city water don't need to be sprinkled, a lot of that is because of the cost of holding tanks, but the sprinkler ordinance isn't based on proximity to the fire station.

Some of the Councilpeople were very interested in repealing the sprinkler ordinance, but then heard from other people and changed their minds and now want to tone the ordinance down, but not repeal it.

John made a motion that the Planning Commission recommends to the City Council repeal the sprinkler ordinance because we have Fire Safety rules that should be followed and doesn't want to create a separate regulatory structure that is unique to Montpelier. Barb seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of proposed charter changes and impacts on the Planning Commission seats:

This was discussed during the Chair's comments.

Consider minutes from January 8, 2018: Kim made a motion to approve the minutes as printed, Kirby seconded.

Adjournment: Kim made a motion to adjourn, Barb seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Tami Furry
Recording Secretary

