

Montpelier Planning Commission Meeting
May 18, 2015

Subject to review and approval

Present: Kim Cheney, Jon Anderson, Barbara Conrey, Tina Ruth, John Adams, Leslie Welts, Michael Miller, Brandy Saxton.

Call to order by the Chair: The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Kim Cheney.

Comments from the Chair: Kim welcomed the large crowd and then turned the meeting over to Mike Miller, who introduced Brandy Saxton.

Zoning workshop # 2 – high density district – presentation from consultant on the zoning process and new draft – input and questions from the public on the proposal:

Brandy presented an overview of the zoning standards rewrite process. The biggest change is the high density area has been expanded.

Some of the issues raised:

The character of the neighborhoods need to be considered separately, not painted with a broad brush.

Considering Sabin's and College Hill be considered separately, while others thought they should be considered together.

More housing is needed in Montpelier to reduce the amount of people commuting into Montpelier to work, if they live in town, it will cut down on the carbon footprint of the area.

The density issue is an attack on the historical areas of the City. There should be a residential district which is separate from the high density area.

The belief is the area cannot handle increased vehicle and foot traffic.

Concern about the loss of plant and animal lives in Sabin's Pasture if it gets developed.

The question was asked if taxes would go down if landowners do subdivide their properties for infill. The answer was tax laws change all the time, so working around to try to reduce taxes is a moving target.

There was support for density to create more affordable housing.

Sprawl be avoided.

According to a walkability study, College and Sabin are not walkable to downtown, so people will be driving downtown.

Comments and questions should be sent to Mike Miller and he will pass them along to the Planning Commission.

Adjournment: The Chair called the meeting closed.

Respectfully submitted,

Tami Furry
Recording Secretary