

CITY OF BELLEVUE
BELLEVUE PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

February 11, 2015
6:30 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
City Council Conference Room 1E-113

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chair Laing, Commissioners Carlson, Hamlin, Hilhorst, Tebelius, Walter

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Commissioner deVadoss

STAFF PRESENT: Paul Inghram, Department of Planning and Community Development

COUNCIL LIAISON: Councilmember Stokes

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Chair Laing who presided.

2. ROLL CALL

Upon the call of the roll, all Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioner deVadoss who was excused.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Norm Hanson, a resident of Bridle Trails, thanked the Commissioners for their dedication and for spending their time on behalf of the citizens of Bellevue. He noted that the Bridle Trails neighborhood is particularly interested in the non-managed utilities section of the Utilities Element. Referring to policy UT-39, he suggested revising it to read "Where electrical distribution lines are currently underground, allow a period of 12 months to underground existing overhead communication lines." Some areas of the city have electrical distribution lines underground but communication lines overhead, and new overhead lines have been added over the last ten years even though policy UT-39 requires all lines over a half inch to be undergrounded. Apparently the city and the Land Use Code allows providers to claim hardship, and that resulted in the overhead installations. The communication providers can save money in about half of Bellevue by going overhead with new lines. The city should consider an escrow investment fund that can be applied to the future costs of undergrounding. Bellevue will only become one city when all lines are undergrounded. The proposed new policy aimed at undergrounding existing electrical lines should be modified to read "Support efforts to underground existing electrical distribution lines throughout Bellevue." Every opportunity to underground should be considered, including road widening projects and water, sewer and natural gas line replacement projects. Tubing can be installed to accept the future installation of electrical and communication lines. He offered to work with staff to develop and refine

appropriate language for the 2035 vision.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to move agenda item 8A ahead of agenda item 5 and to approve the agenda as amended was made by Commissioner Hilhorst. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hamlin and it carried unanimously.

8. STUDY SESSION

A. Comprehensive Plan Update

Chair Laing thanked Comprehensive Planning Manager Paul Inghram and all the staff for their herculean effort to get the draft Comprehensive Plan pulled together and printed for the Commission's review ahead of the public release.

Commissioner Walter asked if the document will be reviewed by a professional editor for typos and the like. Mr. Inghram said the early drafts have been reviewed by a professional editor, but going forward additional changes will undoubtedly be necessary to correct typos and grammar.

Commissioner Tebelius added her kudos to staff for putting together the document. She allowed that while some changes may still be warranted, the document is ready for release to the public.

Commissioner Hamlin said in reading through the document he noticed that the city's urban areas are highlighted more than the residential areas. He suggested including more photos of residential areas to round it out a bit better. He noted that on pages 4 and 5 one of the projections chart has housing and population columns and dates on the left, and the other has just the reverse.

Commissioner Carlson said the draft keeps faith with what the Commission wanted to see and with what the Council directed.

Commissioner Hilhorst said it was exciting to be at the point of having the draft ready for public release. She praised the staff for their work and suggested the Commission should feel proud of the work.

Councilmember Stokes commended the Commissioners and staff for the hard work and thought that went into producing the document. The plan sets a vision for the future of the city and undoubtedly will stimulate discussion.

5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY COUNCILS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Councilmember Stokes commented that the Council retreat was set to begin on March 12. He said the focus will be on vision rather than specific substantive issues. He said kudos are due the Commission for having a good discussion during its retreat about relationships and how to make things move forward. The intent is to have overall standards, processes and procedures that apply equally to all of the city's boards and commissions. He said he would use the minutes of the Commission retreat and the document crafted by Commissioners deVadoss and Walter as a framework relative to relationships.

6. STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Inghram thanked the Commissioners for the positive comments. He pointed out that the work of the Commission over the past two years is what brought the document to its current state. He urged them when reading over the document to focus on whether or not it all fits together as a whole and is readable. There still is work to do and the feedback from the public will be very helpful.

Commissioner Walter asked if the timeline for the different hearings is posted on the city's website. Mr. Inghram said it is. Information is also being prepared to be sent out to neighborhood groups and various stakeholders, and notice of the document release and the open house and hearing opportunities will go out through the usual channels.

Mr. Inghram briefly reviewed the work items on the Commission's schedule of upcoming meetings.

7. DRAFT MINUTES REVIEW

A. November 12, 2014

A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Commissioner Tebelius. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hilhorst and it carried without dissent; Commissioner Hamlin abstained from voting.

B. November 18, 2014

A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Commissioner Tebelius. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hamlin and it carried unanimously.

C. December 10, 2014

A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Commissioner Hamlin. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Walter and it carried without dissent; Chair Laing abstained from voting.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

10. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

11. ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Hamlin. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Walter and it carried unanimously.


Chair Laing adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.



Paul Inghram
Staff to the Planning Commission

5/13/2015

Date



Aaron Laing
Chair of the Planning Commission

5/13/15

Date

* Approved April 8, 2015