



CITY OF West Linn

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<http://westlinnoregon.gov>

COMMITTEE FOR CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, July 16, 2019

5:30 p.m. - Meeting – Rosemont Conference Room

Present: Chair Gary Walvatne, Russ Axelrod, Emily Smith, and Ed Schwarz.

Citizens Present: None

Staff Present: John Boyd

The following meeting notes are a general representation of the discussion. For full meeting content, audio is found under the Committee for Citizen Involvement using the specific meeting date www.westlinnoregon.gov/meetings. The **numbers in red** are time index of each agenda item to assist readers find the meeting topic on the audio tape.

1) **Call to Order (00:10)**

Meeting called to order at 6:13 p.m. by Acting Chair Walvatne and included comments regarding CCI membership status from Member Axelrod.

2) **Election of Officers (02:03)**

A discussion was on the status of the CCI. There are two members of the CCI that have yet to be appointed. **Member Axelrod made a motion to nominate Gary Walvatne as Chair. Seconded by Member Smith. The vote to approve the nomination of Gary Walvatne as chair was approved 3-0-1 (Member Walvatne abstained).**

Member Axelrod made a motion to nominate Emily Smith as Vice Chair. Seconded by Chair Walvante. The vote to approve the nomination of Emily Smith as Vice Chair was approved 3-0-1 (Member Smith abstained).

3) **Approval of the April 16, 2019 meeting notes (04:35)**

Chair Walvatne opened discussion on the April 16th draft meeting notes. **Vice Chair Smith made a motion to approve the meeting notes for the April 16, 2019 meeting. Seconded by Member Axelrod. The vote to approve the meeting notes passed unanimously.**

4) **Public Comments (06:30)**

There was none.

5) Continued from Prior meeting; Roundtable discussion where CCI members can consider updates and discuss expectations for the upcoming year (09:35)

Chair Walvatne began the discussion on the issue and Member Axelrod summarized the issues from prior meetings. The discussion began on two reports: the summary report on land use and the citizen vision goals.

The Mayor noted the Citizen Vision Goals were reviewed by some NA's and the NAP. Member Schwarz noted the NAP review did not have any instruction on the type of review. He noted that the NAP is meeting soon and could discuss the Citizen Visionary Goals and give feedback to the CCI.

Vice Chair Smith asked about the citizen involvement process for this review. Should it be only the NA's and could it have a broader review. There was a discussion on the NAP and NA attendance and how information is dispersed.

The committee members discussed a broader public outreach. To update the goals, the CCI should consider a comprehensive plan update process. Chair Walvatne noted there is a process in Chapter 98 of the Community Development Code that defines how changes to the code are processed by Council (CDC 98.035).

The Committee discussed generally the Plan update process. The process is outlined in the CDC (98.035). The first step is for Council to determine if a working group should be created. Alternately, if council determined the working group was not necessary, the item would go straight to the Planning Commission.

The next step is for the Planning Commission to hold a public hearing to review the request and craft a recommendation on the item for City Council to consider the action recommended by the Planning Commission (PC). The last step is for City Council to hold a public hearing on the PC recommendation and could choose to adopt the item proposed, or choose to table the item, or finally could choose to send it back to the Planning Commission for further discussion. Any action taken to amend the Plan or CDC must be via a city ordinance reviewed and approved during the City Council public hearing.

6) Update from Council Liaisons Mayor Axelrod and Councilor Relyea on the Council Goals. (20:00)

Mayor Axelrod discussed differing Council concepts to change the makeup of the CCI. One concept was to have no Council voting members on the CCI. Another concept was to return the PC to act as the CCI. This item was raised to obtain the CCI input on the process. There was recognition that the CCI is still short two citizen members and no one has applied.

Member Axelrod discussed how the CCI function worked when it was assigned to the PC. He also contrasted the differences between how the CCI functioned in the past versus what would be assigned under the new CCI workgroup function. The committee discussed how this function was to get citizen input on the review processes.

The members discussed the topic of integrating the CCI into the PC and the membership saw a benefit of an independent citizen focused committee that supports citizen input into the planning process. Member Schwarz, Chair Walvatne and Vice Chair Smith comment in support of an independent committee that was a conduit for citizen participation. Having an independent committee that was not incorporated into the duties of the planning commission, could provide broader opportunities for citizens to be educated on an upcoming issue before the CCI and then be able to testify when the PC takes action on an item was deemed as a positive item. On the issue of Council liaison, there was discussion in support of Council member acting in the liaison role and not having a vote as a member of the CCI. There was also feedback on the role of the CCI. This was an item addressed in the report. The concern addressed is having a clear understanding on the role of the CCI. To encourage potential members, differing outreach was considered

to promote filling the two additional members. The outcome was to support maintaining an independent CCI and not have the PC serve as the CCI.

The Members reviewed the work products to promote citizen education and simplify citizen involvement. Once approved by Council for action, the CCI or assigned work group could take action on assigned items addressed in the Land Use Report. This discuss was a substantial review of the development of the report and the rational on the recommendations from the report.

The members considered upcoming meetings. The August meeting will have a quorum check to see if a quorum is available. Potentially, members could review the land use report and the vision goals and to consider next steps. The thought would be to prepare for a meeting in September 17, 2019 and develop actions to work on moving forward into the fall.

Vice Chair Smith reflected on a question she received from a citizen; they asked if the city would be built out by the time the CCI finishes the planning review process. Chair Walvatne noted that most land is already developed, so there is no rush moving forward in the process. Redevelopment and infill still is an issue to address and requires detailed discussion.

Member Axelrod noted HB 2001 related to affordable housing and removing single family housing zones. The CCI could be considering the impacts to the increased density required from this bill. There was an extended discussion on those potential impacts from this legislation to infrastructure including water, sewer and transportation systems. Many items must be considered as the impacts from this legislation is evaluated. The conversation concluded with a consideration that the affordable housing proposed would not be provided by the bill, if a legislative fix was possible in the upcoming short session to HB 2001. Mayor Axelrod noted that the City is already lobbying on the locks, the widening of I-205 and doesn't think the additional item would be something the City would take on. He did consider options of the Mayor's consortium where the city could take part in a broader supported response to this issue.

A suggestion was to have staff return and provide an update on HB 2001 and what options the City should be considering. The CCI could play an important role in the citizen's role in this process. Staff could provide feedback on the requirements of the bill, the changes required to the CDC and the timeline for implementation. It was noted the city's lobbyist would be providing an update in the near future to Council on this issue.

7) Member Comments. (1:08:50)

Vice Chair Smith asked if the Council would need a formal recommendation from the CCI on the status of the CCI. Mayor Axelrod asked if the Chair Walvatne and Vice Chair Smith would agree to draft letter from CCI to Council regarding the independence of CCI. The Committee discussed after the draft is finalized, the product should be transmitted to Staff Boyd for distribution to the CCI members for their review and discussion at the next available meeting.

8) Adjourn (1:10:30)

Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm. The next tentatively scheduled meeting is Tuesday August 20, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. This is subject to confirmation of a quorum; if there is no quorum for the August meeting the following meeting would be tentatively scheduled for September 17, 2019