

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM  
MULTNOMAH COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

MINUTES OF JUNE 2, 2014

- I. **Call to Order:** Chair John Ingle called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, June 2, 2014, at the Sauvie Island Academy Gymnasium, 14445 NW Charlton Rd, Portland, OR.
- II. **Roll Call:** Present – Chair Ingle, Vice-Chair Jim Kessinger, Paul DeBoni, Chris Foster, Bill Kabeiseman, Katharina Lorenz, John Rettig, Jeremy Sievert  
Absent - Larry Peterson
- III. **Approval of Minutes: April 7, 2014.**  
Motion by DeBoni; seconded by Sievert.  
Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. **Opportunity to Comment on Non-Agenda Items:**  
None.
- V. **Briefing: Multnomah County Hazard Mitigation Efforts**  
Adam Barber, Senior Planner, introduced two members from Multnomah County's Office of Emergency Management; Allison Boyd, Senior Program Specialist and Tina Birch, Program Specialist. Allison has a planning background, and specializes in community sustainability and resiliency planning. Tina is an emergency readiness coordinator, with a specialty in public engagement. This is the second in a series of background briefings to help lay the groundwork for the policy discussions for the Sauvie Island/Multnomah Channel Rural Area Plan. Tonight, we will hear about some of the work their office is involved in, which ranges from proactive multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation planning, to community education and managing emergencies with our Emergency Coordination Center (ECC).

Boyd gave a quick overview of the Hazard Mitigation Program and explained the definition of the term hazard mitigation, which is the sustained action to reduce or eliminate long term risks to people and their property due to natural hazards such as earthquakes, wildfires, floods, as well as human-caused hazards, such as concerns around gas pipelines or train derailment that have not traditionally been included in the hazard mitigation. We are working towards an outcome of community resilience, which is the capability to anticipate risk, limit impacts, and bounce back. We work on preparedness, continuity and response planning, and recovery planning. There are four major categories we plan for; local planning and regulations, structural and infrastructure projects, natural systems protection, and education and awareness. We would like to combine the efforts of the various jurisdictions in the area to help build a stronger plan. Over the next year, we will be doing a multi-jurisdictional plan update, and wanted to include the thoughts of the Planning Commission.

Birch works with small cities and rural areas with emergency planning. They are currently working on Map Your Neighborhood, which brings neighborhoods together to plan for emergencies.

**VI. Briefing: Sauvie Island/Multnomah Channel Rural Area Plan and Transportation System Plan Update (PC-2013-2931)**

Barber introduced Kevin Cook, the project manager for this project; Joanna Valencia, Senior Transportation Planner; Maia Hardy, Assistant Planner, and Greg Winterowd of Winterbrook Planning, who is the consultant for the project. The goal tonight is to cover the status of the policies, with a focus on the most recent Community Advisory Committee (CAC) discussion topics.

Cook went over the policies outlined in the draft Policy Framework Memo from the CAC as they existed as of May 27, 2014. Valencia gave an overview of the transportation policies to date. She noted some of the general themes for new policies that the committees wanted to address, which include safety at rail crossings, transportation demand management strategies, transit service, contact sensitive design, visitor impacts, emergency management, equity, safety and addressing conflicts, speed enforcement and reduction, and way finding signage. She then gave a power point presentation of the various concepts.

A microphone was circulated amongst the audience members for comments.

Barber said the next CAC meeting would be June 10, 2014. The public hearing is currently scheduled for August 4, 2014. He also noted that the hearing will be a more formal process, with an opportunity for public testimony, as opposed to the informal comment process at the worksessions.

**VII. Worksession: Dark Skies (PC-2013-3056)**

Barber presented the staff report regarding proposed dark skies lighting requirements. He noted that we had a worksession on this subject in October of 2013, and are returning this evening with prepared code. At the last worksession, staff had been instructed to draft language that applied county wide, and to bring existing light fixtures into alignment with the dark skies concepts. It was our understanding we were not to focus on lighting technology itself, because it changes so rapidly. Barber proceeded with a Powerpoint presentation that touched on the negative impacts excessive night lighting has on human health, safety and wildlife, and how to minimize the detrimental effects. The proposal is to focus on the lighting design, which is a simple yet effective way to make a dramatic difference in light pollution. The county has several areas that currently require shielded and downward pointing light, such as in the National Scenic Area, so some of the proposed regulations are already in place. We also currently have off-street parking and loading requirements for commercial properties. The goal is to have consistent lighting rules across the entire unincorporated areas of Multnomah County. The five objectives are 1) keep it simple, 2) provide a reference to dark skies in each zoning district, 3) have a purpose statement, 4) develop the dark skies lighting standards, and 5) propose possible exemptions. Barber gave an overview of each of the five objectives, as outlined in the staff report.

**VIII. Director's Comments:**

Barber announced that the Comprehensive Plan Update was funded by the Board of County Commissioners, so that will be an upcoming two year project. We will be hiring two new staff for the duration of this project, a senior planner to manage the project, and a planner who will be working with the long range planning. We are also hoping to get another AmeriCorp volunteer for the next year, and there is an RFP out for a consultant.

There will not be a planning commission meeting in July, as that is our traditional summer break.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

**The next Planning Commission meeting will be August 4, 2014.**

Recording Secretary,

Kathy Fisher