

I. Call to Order

A regular session of the Gresham Planning Commission was called to order by Vice-Chair Richard Anderson on the 25th of November 2019, at 6:30 PM in the Springwater Trail Conference Room at Gresham City Hall located at 1333 NW Eastman Parkway, Gresham Oregon. The meeting was digitally recorded. Minutes prepared by Jennifer McGinnis.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Richard Anderson, Vice-Chair
Jef Kaiser
Laura Pramuk
Sue Ruonala
Phil Wich
Alison Wood
Mike Bennett

STAFF PRESENT: Katherine Kelly
Jay Higgins
Amanda Lunsford
Jennifer McGinnis

COUNCIL LIAISONS PRESENT: Councilor Widmark

COUNCIL LIAISONS ABSENT: Councilor Hinton

II. Bee City USA Discussion

Staff presented information about how to become a designated "Bee City" through the Bee City USA program.

Public Comment: Raine Ritalto, 17915 SE Main St., Portland, OR 97233

Ms. Ritalto provided information about potential resources, funding, and partner organizations for Bee City USA, including Mt. Hood Community College, Oregon State University, Portland Community College, and the local Master Beekeepers program. She also recommended that the group in charge of the Tree City USA program oversee the Bee City USA program, should the City move forward with an application.

The Commissioners were interested in pursuing the designation but wanted to gather more information about the amount of resources and funding needed, time commitment, and other potential challenges with implementing the program. Commissioner Wich agreed to bring the idea to the Urban Forestry committee.

II. Transportation System Plan Update:

Staff provided a presentation about the Pleasant Valley Transportation System Plan, which will go to Planning Commission for a hearing on January 13, 2020. The presentation included information about the goals, process, and different alternatives that were explored, in addition to the reasons for selecting the final proposed plan. Staff explained the need to coordinate between multiple jurisdictions and that multiple alternatives were considered to address safety and connectivity while keeping the Foster Road link through the community.

The Commission and staff discussed funding for the Jenne Road improvements. Staff stated that there is a proposed funding mechanism, but funding options will be explored further in the next phase of the project. The project's prioritization was also discussed by the Commission.

There was also discussion about the decision to use a roundabout in the project and the importance of pedestrian and cyclist safety in roundabouts.

III. Community Engagement Event

The Commissioners debriefed on the Community Event that was held on November 4, 2019. Overall, the Commissioners felt that the presentation went well, and that valuable information was shared, but were disappointed with the turnout. Some ideas for increasing turnout at the next event included going to neighborhood association meetings, taking a more active role in promoting the event, scheduling around competing city events, focusing on a specific issue of importance to the neighborhood, and scheduling the event earlier in the year.

IV. Other Business/Adjournment

October 28, 2019 Planning Commission minutes

The Commission suggested a few changes to the draft minutes. With those changes made, Commissioner Ruonala moved to approve the October 28, 2019 Planning Commission minutes. Commissioner Bennett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Plan Map Amendments discussion

Commissioner Bennett brought up the November 29, 2019 City Council hearing where a land use case that was previously recommended for approval by the Planning Commission was referred back to Planning Commission by the City Council. Councilor Widmark stated that staff did not brief Council on the project prior to the hearing which could have helped the City

Councilors understand the project better. He also stated that he is open to discussing changes to the Plan Map Amendment (PMA) process. The Commission discussed potential changes to the PMA process, including having staff bring projects to the Commission earlier in the process. Vice-Chair Andersen stated that if the case had been approved by City Council, the developer could have built many multi-family units and very little commercial and it would have met the CMU designation, so another zoning designation may be more appropriate for the site. Commissioner Bennett agreed that he is interested in looking at the CMU zoning definition and discussing potential changes with staff.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Chairperson

Recording Assistant

Date

Date