

REPORT OF CITY PLAN COMMISSION

August 13, 2014 – 6:00 PM
Lincoln Center – 1519 Water Street

PRESENT: Mayor Andrew Halverson, Commissioner Tony Patton, Commissioner Garry Curless, Commissioner Dave Cooper, and Commissioner Daniel Hoppe.

(Excused: Commissioner Anna Haines)

ALSO PRESENT: Community Development Director Michael Ostrowski, Associate Planner Kyle Kearns, Alderperson Mary Stroik, Alderperson Mike Wiza, Martin Skibba, Cindy Nebel, Armin Nebel, Taylor Christiansen, Kelly Strombom, Bard Jacob, Sarah Wallace, Jeff Schuler, Ryan Kernosty, Amy Vida, Leah Aeby, Mary Ann Laszewski, Josh Stolzenburg, Layne Cozzolino, Cathy Dugan, Meagan McGoldrek, Nerissa Nelson, Joseph Hoover, and Nathan Sandwick.

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Discussion and possible action on the following:

1. Introduction and presentation on comprehensive planning.
 2. Process for the City of Stevens Point's Comprehensive Plan update.
 3. Citizen Participation Plan.
 4. Vision for Stevens Point's future.
 5. Questions, comments, concerns, and presentation of next steps.
 6. Adjourn.
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1. Introduction and presentation of comprehensive planning.

Mayor Halverson welcomed the public and encouraged participation throughout the entire comprehensive plan update process. Furthermore, he introduced Plan Commission members.

Director Ostrowski introduced the comprehensive plan update process and provided an introductory summary of the presentation. Furthermore, he presented the history of the planning law enacted in 1999, and described the historical process of comprehensive planning in Wisconsin which included several requirements and goals for completing comprehensive plans. The City of Stevens Point embarked on its comprehensive plan in 2002 via a partnership with Portage County Planning and Zoning. It was completed and adopted by the City in 2006. Director Ostrowski then cited the nine required comprehensive plan elements and added that additional elements can be added. He finished by providing several community benefits to comprehensive planning before asking Jeff Schuler, Director of Portage County Planning and Zoning, to address former comprehensive planning efforts.

Director Schuler reiterated the planning statutes and provided background into the County's process of receiving grant funds to perform county wide comprehensive plans for individual units of government. Furthermore, Director Schuler strongly encouraged participation from the public during the comprehensive plan update process.

Cathy Dugan, 615 Sommers Street, added that citizens need to find the time to actively participate in the comprehensive plan update process as it guides community development for several years.

Layne Cozzolino, 2857 Water Street, asked how resources are allocated for the comprehensive plan update, to which Director Schuler stated a great deal of effort is made by the City and all stakeholders to take the necessary steps to adequately update the comprehensive plan throughout all steps of the process.

Director Ostrowski provided examples of the City's growth over the past century and cited several projects such as residential subdivisions and commerce parks that were identified within the original comprehensive plan.

2. Process for the City of Stevens Point's Comprehensive Plan update.

Director Ostrowski described the 11 step process, which included pre-planning, community assessment, identification of goals and objectives, implementation, retooling, and several other key steps.

Mayor Halverson added that several neighborhood meetings will occur throughout the process to address community needs on a more confined level.

3. Citizen Participation Plan.

Associate Planner Kearns reiterated the importance of public participation throughout the entire comprehensive plan process. Furthermore, he identified stakeholders and avenues of public engagement, as well as described roles key stakeholders will play throughout the process.

Mayor Halverson added that intergovernmental cooperation with other municipalities, such as the Town of Hull, is very important when planning for the City's extraterritorial boundaries.

A member of the audience asked how community television will be utilized, to which Mr. Kearns answered by stating notifications to meetings and broadcasting of workshops and Plan Commission meetings. Mayor Halverson added that social media will be used regularly as outreach avenues.

Ryan Kernosty, questioned the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point's (UWSP) role within the comprehensive plan update process. Mr. Kearns stated that both the university and technical college will play a very important role in the update process, as students and faculty are vital stakeholders. Director Ostrowski added that the school district and students in particular play a critical role and can have a positive impact on the update process.

Cathy Dugan, 615 Sommers Street, encouraged staff to reach out to local churches and community groups as a place to garner support and gain feedback for the comprehensive plan update project.

Mary Ann Laszewski, 1209 Wisconsin Street, asked if notices will be published in the Portage County Gazette, to which Director Ostrowski confirmed and added there will be other media releases.

Director Ostrowski discussed the draft public participation plan and encouraged public comment and feedback prior to the next regularly scheduled September Plan Commission meeting where it will be reviewed and/or adopted.

4. Vision for Stevens Point's future.

Director Ostrowski encouraged assistance in developing a vision for the City of Stevens Point. He went on further describing how the vision should take into consideration the development of the City over the next 20 years.

A member of the audience asked how arts and culture components will be included within the plan, to which Director Ostrowski replied, stating multiple ways exist, including creating a separate element or including arts and culture throughout all chapters of the plan.

Cathy Dugan, 615 Sommers Street, asked for clarification on how housing, such as historic and infill, will be addressed within the plan, to which Mayor Halverson stressed each will be dealt with separately and through neighborhood and stakeholder meetings. Cindy Nebel commented that neighborhoods need to be invested in, in order to maintain and improve neighborhood characteristics.

Josh Stolzenburg, 2857 Water Street, commented that sustainability should be incorporated throughout all elements, to which Mayor Halverson responded, "A Path to A Sustainable Stevens Point" laid out a direction for sustainability throughout the community which can be incorporated into the comprehensive plan.

5. Questions, comments, concerns, and presentation of next steps.

A member of the audience suggested that aesthetics should be a strong focus throughout all comprehensive plan elements.

Layne Cozzolino, 2857 Water Street, stated the idea of placemaking is truly valuable and cited an example within the community where people joined together to share ideas.

Alderperson Patton, provided examples of neighborhood collaboration and reiterated the importance of neighborhoods within the comprehensive plan update.

Mary Ann Laszewski, 1209 Wisconsin Street, encouraged a better definition of roles of the inspection department regarding housing concerns throughout the comprehensive plan.

6. Adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.