Montpelier Planning Commission Meeting
May 13, 2019

Approved June 10, 2019

This public meeting was recorded, and the video will be available for viewing at this link:
https://www.montpelier-vt.org/1094/CivicClerk

Present: Leslie Welts, John Adams, Barbara Conrey, Ariane Kissam, Stephanie Smith, Kirby Keeton, Emery Richardson, Aaron Kisicki, Michael Miller.

Call to order by the Chair: The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Leslie Welts.

Approval of the agenda: The agenda was deemed approved.

Comments from the Chair: The Chair asked people to be mindful of obtaining a quorum.

Leslie and Kirby had lunch with Eric Gilbertson, who is the chair of the Historic Preservation Commission and on the Design Review Committee. He gave an overview of the work both groups are doing. They will do a presentation at a meeting in June.

General business (comments from the public about something not on the agenda): There were no members of the public in attendance.

Update on consultant selection for the City of Montpelier Downtown Master Plan: A RFP was sent out and five applications were submitted. The review was done by a group of people from other boards and committees in the city. SE Group was hired, they have done work in St. Albans and Burlington. Their application didn't contain as much public interaction as this project requires, so they are going to come up with a revised plan to include more public comments and attending events around the city to get feedback. Taylor Street is going to have a raingarden water treatment system installed this summer. The proposal is made public and should be on the website, but Mike will send it out to Commissioners.

The emphasis will be on State and Main. The Group will need some decisions from City Council before they can proceed with details. Leslie asked that the Commission be given updates on the plans.

Update on Historic Preservation Commission's efforts to revise design review provisions in the zoning bylaws. Set a possible joint meeting: When this part of the zoning bylaws was being reviewed, the public feedback was that they felt the rules were arbitrary. There was pushback on the pending zoning language, mainly from the Historic Preservation Commission, so they were both asked to write their language on those sections. Once the rules are developed, then guidelines will be drafted.

The joint meeting will be June 10 or 24, it was decided to go with June 24.

City Plan – continue work session with maps on what aspects of the city we should maintain, what to evolve, and what to transform:

Visioning statement – discuss notes from all committees meeting and the current master plan to inform a visioning statement.

The Energy Committee's main goal is for the city to eliminate its reliance on fossil fuels.

Sustainable Montpelier Coalition's goals are to expand access to rivers, to have one thousand new housing units, vehicle free downtown using satellite lots, all by 2030. The Coalition is grant funded and not an official city entity.

The Conservation Commission's three goals are to have a storm water management plan, to inventory natural resources, do some public education about where the natural resources are, to better protect them.

The Housing Authority's goal is to create communication and cooperation among agencies.

The Transportation Committee's main goals are to create a safe and inviting atmosphere for pedestrians and bikes, implementing existing plans, to accommodate and encourage transit. The existing plans are Montpelier In Motion, Complete Streets, and the Main Street scoping study.

The Public Safety Authority is a chartered entity, but the city no longer funds them. They were looking at merging Montpelier's and Barre's dispatch services.

The Housing Task Force wants to expand housing. Their goals are to have adequate rental and owner occupied homes; a safe, healthy, energy efficient, resilient uses with access to open space; housing for all. They want 150 new housing units in 5 years, and a total of 240 over 8 years.

The Parks Commission would like to see a greenprint, parks and trail access to all residents, enhance outdoor rec facilities for all abilities and types of activities, to protect and preserve natural areas, and to eradicate invasives.

This will be continued at the next meeting.

Consider minutes from April 8, 2019: Ariane moved to approve the minutes, Stephanie seconded. The motion passed on a 7-0 vote.

Reminder – no meeting on May 27 (Memorial Day):

Adjournment: Aaron made a motion to adjourn, Kirby seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Tami Furry
Recording Secretary