

City of Milwaukie
PLANNING COMMISSION WORK SESSION
June 10, 1975

A work session of the Milwaukie Planning Commission was held on the 10th day of June, 1975, in the Council Chambers. The meeting was convened at 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Louis Casale
Bob Kennedy

Mark Landis

Members absent: Dennis Davis
Jerry Mesander (excused)

Jon Nickel (excused)

Also present: Cyrus Nims, Planning Director
Tim Holder, Assistant Planner

Myer Avedovech, City Attorney

Discussion centered around four memoranda: "Participants in the Planning Process," "Elements of the Comprehensive Plan and Planning Process," "Plan Description," and "Planning Program, Milwaukie, Oregon."

Important points made by those in attendance:

1. A Capital Improvement Program is a good way to implement the Comprehensive Plan, and it is something the Planning Commission should encourage and be involved in.
2. Citizen participation should:
 - a. Capitalize on the experience of retired persons.
 - b. Provide representation for geographical areas (neighborhoods) of the City. Each neighborhood council should have one person to act as liaison to the City Council and on planning matters to the Planning Commission. The neighborhood council should be built into the political structure under the City Council.
 - c. Include "hustlers" who are interested in action and accomplishment.
 - d. Include those who express opposition to public programs.
 - e. Include representatives of civic and service clubs.
 - f. Include the updating of the Comprehensive Plan, but also a new political process which provides a more direct means for people to be involved in a wide range of municipal concerns.
3. Milwaukie appears to suffer from a low level of community identity and some apathy about civic issues. This may be due, in part, to the City's nearness to Portland. This is in spite of the fact that Milwaukie has a colorful history and a strong tradition of local concerns.
4. Means for communicating local issues to the people need to be strengthened. Methods discussed were:
 - a. Preparation of statements to be given to the press.
 - b. A newsletter prepared by the City explaining current activities and programs, mailed out to water customers.
 - c. A staff person responsible for this, who would also assist the citizen participation program.
5. Some means may be desirable for insuring good coordination among the various boards and commissions created by the City, which have an interest in matters coming under the Comprehensive Plan umbrella.

6. Duplexes and mobile homes are a special problem which need to be dealt with in the land use and housing elements of the Plan.
7. Productive farming in and adjacent to the City is a special problem. Farms have real benefits to the community, and should not be inadvertently or carelessly forced out of business.
8. The present zoning map incorporates many land use decisions arrived at after much deliberation. It should provide a substantial policy basis for the new Comprehensive Plan.
9. "Problem areas" identified on the present zoning map should receive special attention.
10. Developing policies in form of loose-leaf notebooks so that policy revisions could be physically replaced was considered a good idea. Myer stated the question of how easily a Comprehensive Plan could be revised has not been settled.
11. The City's regulations for planned unit developments are not sufficiently broad and workable. The draft regulations prepared by Rod Sandoz should be given further consideration.
12. The Planning Commission should review its powers and duties under City ordinance and new regulations to help clarify what its proper and most effective role may be.

CN/me

Attachment to June 10, 1975, Planning Commission work session notes --

Comments by City Manager made on June 11, 1975:

1. The Plan should include things to which the City has made a commitment. The policies should be carefully drawn so that the public can rely upon them and so that City officials and staff have a firm basis for action.
2. People in the citizen participation process should include a broad spectrum of interests. It should not be limited to appointment of those with a desire for organizational status and responsibility.
3. Neighborhood Councils are needed to broaden the base of public involvement in government. Part of their effort would be in helping to prepare a new City plan. This might be accomplished by a sub-committee of the Neighborhood Council.
4. The policies and programs of the Comprehensive Plan should not be arbitrarily limited to physical-environmental-development questions, but should include social needs as well.
5. Establishing goals and objectives should be an important part of plan preparation.
6. The suggested planning program includes activities which are the responsibility of the Council, City Manager, department head or others. Decisions on the program, therefore, extend beyond the typical city planning commission and staff concerns.

CN/me