



**CITY OF NEWPORT
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
NEWPORT CITY HALL
March 8, 2018 – 5:30 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Taylor called the Planning Commission meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. on March 8, 2018.

2. ROLL CALL

Present (4): Chairperson Marvin Taylor, Commissioner David Tweeten, Commissioner Anthony Mahmood, and Commissioner Laurie Elliott.

Not Present (1): Commissioner Saengmany Ratsabout

3. APPROVAL OF PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

A. Minutes of the February 8, 2018 Planning Commission Meeting

Commissioner Elliott motioned to approve February 8, 2018 Newport Planning Commission Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Chairperson Tweeten. Approved 4-0.

4. 2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The draft of the Comprehensive plan will be sent out to surrounding communities and other overseeing authorities for review and then will be submitted to the MET Council after approved by the City Council.

A. Parks and Trails

City Planner Sherri Buss informed the Commission where parks are located throughout the City. Edits were made to the Parks and Trails chapter of the Comprehensive Plan including updates to the goals and the use of park dedication fees from future developments. The Commission discussed the Master Parks Plan being developed by the Park Board which is addressing the City's Parks system as a whole.

B. Housing

Planner Buss provided the Commission with an overview of the single and multi-family housing in Newport. The Commission discussed the affordability of housing and the amount of families spending more than 30% of their income on housing furthered by discussion regarding current housing development opportunities.

C. MRCCA

Planner Buss provided the Commission with an overview of the MRCCA rules. The Commission discussed the current rules and holding community meetings to receive public input regarding the rules. Topics such as determining the areas and land uses between industrial, commercial, and residential type properties.

Items discussed which needed to be put in the plan include river corridor views of and from public overlooks. The Commission discussed the amount and type of vegetation along the Mississippi River which would apply to public and private lands as it has an impact on erosion controls. The historical impacts of the rules affecting walls and vegetation along the river would be deferred to the Newport Historical Preservation Commission along with the potential of volunteers performing the work.

The Commission discussed the Mill Pond site and the levy regarding putting the site in the Comprehensive Plan. Part of the new rules would require developed land to dedicate 50% to parks or open space that is within the shoreland area. This would also apply to redeveloped properties.

The Commission discussed the historical water oriented used along the river and how to address the changes of the landscape of the time. Topics included erosion prevention and controls. The Commission consensus is to add working with the Corp of Engineers, Parks Service, and DNR to the Comprehensive Plan.

The Commission discussed the joint powers agreement regarding the Bailey School Forest. Setting a goal in the Comprehensive Plan to have the City work with the school district in getting the Bailey School Forest Committee active again.

5. COMMISSION REPORTS

None.

6. NEW / OLD BUSINESS

None.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Mahmood motioned to adjourn the Planning Commission meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Tweeten. Approved 4-0.

The Planning Commission Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m. on March 8, 2018.

Respectfully Submitted:
Travis Brierley,
Assistant to the City Administrator

Signed: _____
Marvin Taylor, Chairperson