

City of Bishop  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
Executive Conference Room – 377 West Line Street  
Bishop, California 93514

**July 26, 2011**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Lowthorp, Gardner, Hardy, and Malloy

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT (Excused):

Huntley, Crom and Bhakta

OTHERS PRESENT:

James M. Southworth, City Administrator

Laura Smith, Mayor

David Stottlemire, Mayor Pro Tem

Susan Cullen, Council Member

Jim Ellis, Council Member

Jeff Griffith, Council Member

David Grah, Director of Public Works

Keith Caldwell, Assistant City Administrator/Community Services Director

Gary Schley, Public Services Officer

Denise Gillespie, Assistant City Clerk

Michele Thomas, Public Works Secretary

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Smith asked if anyone wished to speak on a subject not calendared on the agenda. There was no public comment.

DISCUSSION

- (1) Draft Mobility Element Update to the General Plan

The City Administrator stated the purpose of this meeting is to brief both the Council and Planning Commission on the Draft Mobility Element and supporting reports and to provide an opportunity for questions and receive feedback to staff and the consultants. Similar presentations have been given to the Paiute Tribal Council and the Inyo County Board of Supervisors. More presentations will be scheduled for other stakeholders.

Bauer Environmental Consulting, Inc. representatives gave a slide show presentation of the Mobility Element (ME) which is one of the required elements of the General Plan. The purpose of the ME is to define how the City will serve the transportation needs of its residents, businesses and visitors while enhancing its environmental, economic and natural resources. This study is funded by the Local Transportation Commission.

The contents of the element reviewed by those attending included: Purpose and Scope; Mobility Element Transportation Report; Roadway Component; Opportunity Areas; Other Transportation Modes; Goals, Policies and Implementing Actions.

Included in discussion under the Draft Transportation Report was the concept of a Truck Route east of Bishop to be used by large trucks which would make Main Street more pedestrian-friendly. It was reported that the funding, location, responsibility, and implementation of this concept were concerns expressed by both the Tribal Council and County Supervisors.

Comments from the public included:

Chuck Kilpatrick felt public education would be an important element in making any changes. Relating to the truck route concept he encouraged the addition of a truck stop with access to services in town.

Tawni Thomson, Executive Director for the Chamber of Commerce, stated that speeding on Main Street, especially the big trucks, is perceived by pedestrians and businesses. She suggested that any information available on Main Street speeding statistics should be included in the study. Thomson also encouraged meetings to receive input from Main Street business owners.

Nel Hecht suggested making West Line from Main Street to Home more bike and pedestrian friendly by removing some of the parking.

Another suggestion offered by Jeremy Plum was to provide an underpass for bicycles and pedestrians where the truck route would cross East Line Street.

John Helm, Executive Director for the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority, commented on the difficulties/inability for transit buses to pick up and deliver to Main Street locations and requested that considerations be made for transit in planning.

Attendees were encouraged to make comments and notations on printed materials posted on the walls.

RECESS/RECONVENE

At 6:50 p.m. the meeting was recessed for a break and reconvened at 7:04 p.m. with all five Council Members and the four Planning Commissioners in attendance.

(2) Update on General Plan Housing Element Compliance

Sandra Bauer gave an update on the state mandated requirements written into the 2009 Housing Element Update to the City's General Plan. The remaining compliance obligations are: 1) designating zoning for group housing (for 6 or more people); 2) working with developers to facilitate ways to help people with disabilities; and 3) the City's commitment to look at mixed use/higher density housing if the City is not able to obtain LADWP land as anticipated. The consultants will be meeting with the City in the future to present ideas.

(3) Sign Ordinance Review

Councilmember Griffiths questioned if guidelines are needed to help the Planning Commission decide on when to grant a conditional use permit for signage. It was determined that without having a code enforcement officer, the City would not be able to provide tighter code enforcement. Therefore, the consensus that the procedure for granting conditional use permits for signs would remain the same.

(4) Parking Regulations Review

Discussion was held on general parking issues including improving ways to direct the traveling public to city parking lots; mobility versus parking needs; business requests for timed parking; and requests for on-site parking variances.

(5) Term Limits for City Commissioners

Discussion on the appointment of new applicants to commission positions versus incumbent reappointments was held. It was determined that decisions should be based on which candidate is the most qualified for appointment. It was also determined that the interview committee should consider the past attendance record of the incumbent and the availability and willingness of a new candidate to make the commitment to attend regular and special meetings.

ADJOURNMENT:

The joint meeting of the City Council and Planning Commission was adjourned at 7:52 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Planning Commission will be August 30, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers.

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Commissioner, Lowthorp

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Michele Thomas, Secretary