

SPECIAL SESSION:

State of West Virginia, County of Jefferson, to-wit:

At a Special Session of the County Commission of said County and State continued and held at the Old Charles Town Library ground floor meeting room on Thursday, February 21, 2013, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Dale Manuel President
Walter Pellish, Vice President
Patsy Noland, Commissioner
Jane Tabb, Commissioner
Lyn Widmyer, Commissioner
Jennifer Brockman, Director of Planning
Seth Rivard, County Planner
Steve Barney, Zoning Administrator
Christopher Whittaker, Comprehensive Plan Planner
Cynthia Schott, Administrative Assistant

Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Members- Envision 2035

In re: Joint Meeting of Jefferson County Commission and Envision 2035, Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee

Commissioner Manuel opened the session at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Brockman began the session with an overview of the timeline to date for the Comprehensive Plan.

Ms. Brockman stated:

1. A Technical Advisory Committee was formed.
2. The Steering Committee was formed with appointed citizens representing the districts in the County.
3. To date there have been 3 public workshops – held throughout the County and facilitated by staff and Steering Committee members.
4. They have researched and compiled a draft of Existing Conditions- Data Collection of Mapping and Trends Analysis.
5. Have conducted seven (7) Lunch & Learn Sessions – bringing in organizations specializing in Parks, Recreation and Trails, Transportation, Housing, Arts & Humanities, Schools, Public Utilities, Natural Resources, Historic Resources and Economic Development.
6. Envision 2035 Steering Committee developed and signed a Charter regarding how they are going to work individually and as a group.

Mr. Seth Rivard presented a power point presentation highlighting the Data Collection –statistics regarding population density, median age, and employment figures.

Members of the Steering Committee shared their perceptions of what they have learned from the staff and community to this point in the process.

Pam Parziale –

- Staff has developed guidelines to be respectful of each other’s opinions.
- Staff has been responsive to the committee’s requests.
- Lunch and Learns have been extremely insightful.
- Questioned the commitment by the County Commission for financing the wish list of the residents.
- Believes committee is moving forward steadily.

Jim Gibson –

- Felt the power point was reflective of what they have heard.
- Is appreciative for this meeting. Mr. Gibson shared he was part of the last Comprehensive Plan and the State did not have the guidelines in place they have now.
- Inquired as to Land planning – there are existing land maps and every property owner has some type of vested rights since zoning. Is the Commission in favor of down zoning and what are their thoughts on land owner’s rights?
 - Commissioners stated this group was a visionary group and would not be dealing with re-zoning issues.

Peter Fricke –

- Believes the tenor of discussions he has heard from citizens comes down to quality of life, sustainability. How do we make the County sustainable in areas of employment, education and health?

Ellen May –

- Ability to age in this County is not an option.

Bill Mcleod –

- Believes the Commission needs to do a better job of promoting the Comprehensive Plan, invite people to be involved.
- Need to have an emphasis on building jobs with what we have here.

Suzanne Malesic –

- Shared the Community expressed doubts of the County Commissions commitment (support) to this process.
- Citizens believe no matter how lofty the goal, interest groups and business out-trump everything else.
- Citizens expect all factors to be balanced – they want quality of life with all the components balanced.
- Transportation issues.

Janis Schlitz –

- Believes more people will become involved as we get further along in the process and deal with controversial issues.

Kathy Knight –

- Has heard citizens' concerns as to the commitment of the County Commission to this process.
- Does believe there is interest in the Comprehensive Plan and a lot of "eyes & ears" are watching what the committee is doing and where they are going.

Mark Dyck –

- Stated he did not believe we should plan further out than five (5) years as no one has a crystal ball as to what can develop in ten (10) years down the road.
- Believes it is easier to develop where we want development to happen and how "we" want it to happen.
- The County Commission doesn't fund infrastructure such as roads, water and sewer and should focus on that which the County funds.
- Believes people voluntarily invest their money in Jefferson County. We have to embrace companies which support that.

Peter Fricke –

- We don't have multiple use land, should we focus on planning land use where there is infrastructure?
- Believes this is a good opportunity to work with the Public Service District and find out where they are going with infrastructure.
- We need to look at infrastructure as an investment – we need to change our philosophy.

Pam Parziale –

- Agrees with Mr. Dyck – we need to create more jobs in the area.

The Commissioners expressed their appreciation for the time and effort the Committee is investing in this project.

Both the Commissioners and the Steering Committee members felt this meeting was very beneficial and expressed a desire to continue to meet together during the Comprehensive Plan process.

DALE MANUEL, COMMISSION PRESIDENT