

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission

Planning Committee Virtual Meeting - Zoom

Minutes

January 19, 2021 – 5:00 p.m.

Attendance

Planning Committee Members Present: Chairperson Sam Spencer, Vice Chairperson Phillip Gussman; and Commissioners Astrid Chirinos, John Ham, John Fryday, and Cozzie Watkins

Planning Committee Members Absent: Commissioner Courtney Rhodes

Planning Staff Present: Kathy Cornett, Zenia Duhaney, Alberto Gonzalez, Travis Johnson, Alysia Osborne, and Candice Rorie

Other Staff Present: Anne-Rose Loy, General Services, Real Estate

Welcome and Introductions

Chairperson Spencer called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m., welcomed everyone, and introduced each commissioner and staff member.

Virtual Meeting Rules and Guidelines

Chairperson Spencer explained the virtual meeting rules and guidelines. The meeting was livestreamed on Facebook Live. A link for the public to view the meeting's livestream is posted on the Planning, Design & Development Department's webpage.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Gussman and seconded by Commissioner Watkins to approve the December 15, 2020 minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Mandatory Referrals

M.R. #21-01 | The City of Charlotte proposes to sell approximately 0.06 acres of a 0.180-acre City-owned parcel located along N. Brevard Road (PID #083-051-09) in Charlotte, in response to a request to purchase from the adjacent property owner.

The Chairperson asked if the committee members had any questions about M.R. #21-01. There being no response or comment, Commissioner Watkins read the motion and Chairperson Spencer moved to a roll call vote.

A motion was made by Commissioner Watkins and seconded by Vice Chairperson Gussman to state that the Planning Committee reviewed M.R. #21-01 on January 19, 2021 and has no additional comments for the submitting agency. The motion was unanimously approved.

Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update

Alysia Osborne shared a brief update, which was provided at the broader Planning Commission meeting earlier in the month, about the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. She reminded Commissioners of the release of the plan document in October for public review. She then shared the tentative review and adoption schedule and stated that she will update the Planning Commission and the Planning Committee in February and March; and begin to share comments received on the plan document. Staff is developing the platform to display those comments and they will be available for public review.

In March, the focus will be on a public comment session. April will focus on the adoption of the plan document and we will continue to have robust engagement with the community. Last week, kicked off the Speaker Series. In addition, staff will continue to facilitate game play, have touch points with our elected appointed officials, including the Planning Commission, City Council, and the County Board of Commissioners. Staff is also working to develop ambassador advocacy kits that will equip our ambassadors with key information about the plan, how to get involved, what the review and adoption process involves and how they can participate and share the information with their neighbors.

On February 16, a virtual 3D open house will launch where participants can explore different parts of the document and provide comments in a virtual style meeting room. While in the room, participants can look at the different elements of the plan. There may be some 3D elements as a part of that process to make it interactive. It is a different way to look at it. Similarly, our goal in March, is to host a community event and plan to safely conduct social distancing; if the world is open.

Our Community Conversation Speaker Series began with Kimberly Driggins and staff will share a link to a recording of the meeting. Ms. Driggins provided insight on her experience in the District of Columbia (DC) as project manager for the DC Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Driggins also shared insights on her experiences in Detroit, where she was the assistant director and led initiatives as Detroit implemented their plan.

Our next few speakers will build on that momentum - how we think big and bold and think of implementation as we are thinking about these policies. Paul Magoush was part of our speaker series in the initial phases of this project when we first started talking about place types. He will share some of his learnings in Minnesota with their comprehensive plan. We will then wrap up the series in March with the former Mayor of Portland, Charles Hales. He will bring an elected official perspective and he is also a planner. Mr. Hales was in leadership and helped to realize the first modern streetcars.

We will continue to play the game. An email should have gone out to you all about the online version of the game and Travis Johnson can host a session for Commissioners. It provides a fun way to look at the elements of the plan, the plan policies, and projects to see how they might play out. Commissioner Chirinos asked if Ms. Osborne has a schedule of the game plays and the location of the sessions. Ms. Osborne responded that they can be emailed and that most of the game plays are online. Hard copies of the games can be provided. The Chairperson asked if there are any other questions. Hearing none the meeting continued to the next topic of discussion.

Planning Commission Report to the Board of County Commissioners

The Chairperson explained that he and Vice-Chairperson Samuels will be addressing the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners to provide the Commission Annual Report, including goals and yearly work plans to include intergovernmental collaboration. Communication should be improved because this year to ensure appointments are made in a timely fashion. Chairperson Spencer asked if anyone has any questions on the slideshow, report, or if he may have left out anyone's contribution. Vice Chairperson Gussman remarked that he believes the report is well done and one of the better ones that he has seen during his tenure. He gave kudos to the Chair for having the Charlotte Moves element included. The Chairperson thanked the Vice Chairperson for his comment and made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.