

City of Newport
Planning Commission Meeting
June 21, 2022

Present: John Monette, Denis Chenette, Carole O'Connell, Kevin Mead,

Others: Alison Low from NVDA, City Manager Laura Dolgin

1. Call to order: Chair Monette called the meeting to order immediately upon adjournment of the Historic Preservation meeting at 6:49 pm.
2. Approval of the Minutes: Kevin Mead moved to approve the June 7, 2022 minutes, with Carole O'Connell seconding. The motion carried and the minutes passed.
3. Public Comment: N/A
4. Bylaw Modernization & Hazard Mitigation Grants: Nothing new to report on the Bylaw Modernization Grant as the PC members attended the kick off meeting. The MOU for the Hazard Mitigation Grant was signed by consultant Paul Luciano. Mr. Luciano will attend the Regional Emergency Management Planning meeting on the 27th and will report out at a future Planning Commission meeting.
5. City Plan update: Alison Low presented a completed Municipal Plan Draft with some redline still there for Planning Commission (PC) review, along with a complete set of maps, for each member. After hearing the information presented at the Historic Preservation meeting, the PC would like those recommendations included in the updated plan, specifically, to acknowledge the Historic District, reassess the historic district boundaries, to expand historic signage and markers, and encourage a walking tour in order to appreciate the historical significance. The commission then reviewed the final draft plan in total as well as the maps, making a few adjustments as they went along in some sections of the draft and maps, including adjusting the order of the priority actions.

The first public hearing is targeted for the August 2 PC meeting. Alison Low distributed a Plan Adoption Tool document and her report in preparation of the public hearing process which was also reviewed by the PC. We have timelines in which to distribute the copies to the various neighboring communities and official entities, and we will target the last Wednesday of June to do so. The PC then reviewed the list of acknowledgements.

Carole O'Connell moved to approve the draft Municipal Plan and Maps as revised tonight, and authorize all actions necessary to start the hearing process, with Denis Chenette seconding. The motion passed with all voting in favor.

With this motion, Alison Low will provide the final copies for posting on the website by early next week, and will plan to rejoin the PC in August.

6. Old Business: Laura Dolgin reported the position for ZA and for a PC member are being advertised. She also reported the Community Summit was excellent in that it achieved our goals; the press did a wonderful job covering it, and John Monette did a fantastic job updating the community on the progress of the Planning Commission. The presentation both Alison and he created is perfect for the public hearings.

7. New Biz: Laura Dolgin congratulated Alison Low and the Planning Commission for the incredible body of work they produced on the Draft Municipal Plan. This was quite a large undertaking, starting prior to the pandemic in 2020, and the PC saw the project steadfastly through to a completed draft. The Commission deserves credit and appreciation for seeing the project through, and the final document will serve the city very well for the next 8 years. The adoption process is anticipated to go well because the document is exceptional. On a bittersweet note, Now that the Municipal Plan working sessions have concluded, the PC meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. so that members have time to grab dinner beforehand.
8. Agenda: the next meeting is scheduled for July 5, 2022 at 6:30 p.m., and will look like this agenda with another city plan review. Laura Dolgin will invite Paul Luciano to provide an update on the Hazard Mitigation Plan.
9. Adjourn: Denis Chenette moved to adjourn, with Kevin Mead seconding. Motion passed at 8:38.

Respectfully submitted by Laura Dolgin
Unofficial Until Approved

Approved this Fifth day of July, 2022.



Chair, Newport City Planning Commission