

MINUTES of the Vernal City PLANNING COMMISSION

Vernal City Council Chambers - 374 East Main Street, Vernal, Utah

February 12, 2019

7:00 pm

Members Present: Joni Crane, Jim Linschoten, Samantha Scott

Members Excused: Eric Hunting, Darcy McMickell, and Adam Ray

Alternates Present: Ben McMickell

Alternates Excused: Kimball Glazier

Staff Present: Allen Parker, Assistant City Manager; Matt Tate, Building Official; and Sherri Montgomery, Administrative Clerk.

WELCOME AND DESIGNATION OF CHAIR AND MEMBERS: Chair Joni Crane welcomed everyone present to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 8, 2019: Chair Joni Crane asked if there were any changes to the minutes from January 8, 2019. Ben McMickell referred to line 55 and asked if using the term “Commissioners” is a correct title to use. Allen Parker stated yes, Planning Commission members are “Commissioners” of the Planning Commission. *There being not enough members present who were in attendance of the January 8, 2019 meeting to vote, the minutes of January 8, 2019 are deemed approved as per the Vernal City Municipal Code, Section 2.12.080.*

GENERAL PLAN – PARKS, RECREATION AND TRAILS – ALLEN PARKER: Allen Parker explained that a portion of the Trails Master Plan was copied for the meeting packet. The entire Trails Master Plan has been made available for the meeting as well. Mr. Parker stated that he was hoping to conduct the meeting similar to a work session for amending the General Plan. The Trails Master Plan has been adopted by the City Council and needs to be incorporated into the General Plan. Mr. Parker pointed out that this can be done as an appendix and referenced to the General Plan. Chair Joni Crane asked about the rules for amending the General Plan and asked what the difference is between adding the Trails Master Plan as content or as an appendix. Mr. Parker explained that either way is binding. The legislative body adopts everything that has the force of law. The General Plan is the master document for the City and is the foundation document for the way the City grows and develops. Mr. Parker stated that this is why the plan is so extensive and projects for higher growth rates. The Planning Commission briefly discussed the future of the railroads and the airport. Mr. Parker announced that Troy Allred and Corey Foley will be joining the Planning Commission to fill the current vacancy spots. Mr. Parker shared some information on Mr. Allred and Mr. Foley and how they both look forward to being involved and have a vested interest in the community.

Mr. Parker asked the Planning Commission if they had any questions regarding the information that has been presented on the Trails Master Plan. Mr. Parker noted that Ms. Crane had several

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questions that were addressed by email by the City Manager, Quinn Bennion. Ms. Crane stated that she was curious as to why the Trails Coordinator, which is required as per the plan, could not be a volunteer position versus a paid employee. Mr. Parker explained that the Trails Coordinator is a paid position; however, it has not been decided who would employ that individual. Mr. Parker gave the Planning Commission a brief history on how the Trails Master Plan was started and the amount of time and involvement given by the committee. Ben McMickell mentioned that he is familiar with the plan as it was presented at meetings by Sunrise Engineering and indicated that it makes sense and is definitely moving forward. Mr. McMickell mentioned that he was interested in the grants and the funding available for the projects. Mr. Parker stated that he will move forward and reference the Trails Master Plan as Appendix F in the General Plan and eliminate quite a bit of text and maps from the Parks and Recreation section and present it to the Planning Commission for review. Mr. McMickell mentioned that it is obvious that the whole point of this plan is to further the pedestrian and cycle access; however, he has not seen how it affects Vernal City itself including the sidewalks and how the City plans to fill those small gaps. Mr. Parker explained that if the sidewalks are a part of the safe routes to school plan, there is funding for that. However, if it is approached as a trails component, the City would seek different funding and pursue it as a recreational facility component.

Mr. Parker mentioned to the Planning Commission that City Manager, Quinn Bennion, has been diligently working on the bill that is going to be presented this year to the State Legislature to change the percentage and way the sales tax is distributed to the municipalities. Currently, Vernal City receives 50% of the sales tax and the other 50% is distributed to the population. The new bill being presented would change the percentage to 25% going to the municipalities and 75% going to the population. Mr. Bennion has been taking the lead on this issue state wide and contacting the cities who will be significantly impacted by this new legislature.

Ms. Crane asked how often the General Plan is amended. Mr. Parker explained that the General Plan is updated on a five year basis. Ms. Crane asked what the process is now as far as the Planning Commission is concerned. Mr. Parker explained that the Planning Commission will have several work sessions to go over all the sections of the General Plan. After there is an actual document ready, a public hearing will be held for the public to give input. When the Planning Commission has a final document to present to the City Council for approval, a final public hearing will be held at that time. Mr. Parker asked the Planning Commission to look at their schedules for setting the next work session. Mr. Parker stated that he will be providing dinner for the work session to be held in the upstairs Planning Conference Room. After some discussion, the Planning Commission agreed to hold the next work session after the regular Planning Commission meeting on March 12, 2019 with the start time of the meeting to be changed from 7:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Ms. Crane suggested having Kimball Glazier there to share his expertise. Mr. Parker mentioned that Mr. Glazier has other obligations at this time.

ADJOURN: There being no further business, *Samantha Scott moved to adjourn. Ben McMickell seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote, and the meeting was adjourned.*

Joni Crane, Planning Commission Chair