

October 4, 2017

The City Council conducted a Work Session on the above date. The following were present: Mayor Christine Maefsky, Council members Steve Kronmiller, Chris Ness and Jim Schneider. Absent: Council member Bob Hegland. Staff present: City Administrator Neil Soltis and Deputy Clerk Brenda Eklund. City Engineer Ryan Goodman was also present.

Mayor Maefsky called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Maefsky announced two additions to the agenda:

- 2.a) Discussion on filling Planning Commission vacancy
- 2.b) Discussion on Gammelgarden request

Schneider, seconded by Ness, moved to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried 4-0.

PLANNING COMMISSION VACANCY

Administrator Soltis reported that Walt Anderson will be moving to North Branch and stepping down from his position on the Planning Commission. **Ness, seconded by Kronmiller, moved to direct staff to solicit applications for the Planning Commission vacancy for review at the October 17th Council meeting. The motion carried 4-0.**

GAMMELGARDEN MUSEUM REQUEST FOR DECORATING LAMPPOSTS

Mayor Maefsky explained that Lynne Moratzka, director of the Gammelgarden Museum, has requested permission to decorate the lampposts in the Village Area with seasonal décor. Council member Kronmiller asked about the city's liability for this activity. Administrator Soltis will have the volunteers sign the volunteer log and waiver that was adopted with the city's volunteer policy in May 2017. **Ness, seconded by Kronmiller, moved to approve Gammelgarden's request to decorate the city's lampposts. The motion carried 4-0.**

DISCUSSION ON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Jane Kansier, Bolton & Menk consultant for the city's comprehensive plan update, led the presentation on the process of developing the city's 2040 Comprehensive Plan up to this point. Public input has been gathered at 2 pop-up meetings and through a community survey mailed to all Scandia residents. Three focus groups representing youth, business and agriculture, and age group 55+ met to identify the city's strengths, weaknesses and future needs. The Comprehensive Steering Committee completed three meetings and evaluated the survey results to craft the visions and goals for the elements of the final comp plan.

Kansier said Scandia's rural and open space was commonly identified as strengths, while poor internet service and lack of younger families was found as weaknesses. Results indicated the top priorities to be residential and commercial growth, walking/biking/horseback riding trails, and life stage housing.

Kansier explained the Met Council's community designation for Scandia as Diversified Rural, with an option as a Rural Center having a mix of housing densities surrounded by agricultural lands. As Scandia's projected 2040 population is expected to be 4,950 (currently 3,954), the land use plan must provide available land to meet this forecasted growth, estimated at 594 housing units. Kansier noted that Scandia's current land use can accommodate 1,594 future units, three times what is required. However, Kansier explained that the committee is looking to concentrate development in 2 key areas as Rural Center (3-5 units per acre), while protecting rural spaces with the Diversified Rural designation (4 per 40 acre density).

Kansier had the Council members work on a map exercise to identify the Rural Center areas, primarily centered around the Village Area and along the west side of Big Marine Lake, while agreeing that commercial development along Highways 95 and 97 as undesirable. The need for community or city sewer systems to support greater densities was identified as a necessary component to growth. Potential for future expansion of Forest Lake's sewer lines was noted to be beneficial to support growth on the west side of Big Marine Lake.

Kansier presented the vision statement and the four overall goals that will guide development of the plan. The discussion ended with a review of the goals and policies for the elements of the comp plan covering land use, natural resources, water resources, housing, economic development, parks and trails, and transportation. A few edits were made in preparation of the draft plan. A timeline was presented, with an open house scheduled for October 24th, a public hearing before the Planning Commission in the spring of 2018, with adoption by the Council in May 2018. Surrounding jurisdictions and the Met Council have 6 months to complete their reviews, ending with final adoption by the Council in early 2019.

FUTURE WORK SESSION AGENDA ITEMS

- November 1st will be budget related including fire department staffing
- Discussion of wetland setback to provide direction to the Planning Commission
- Park fees, past and future

ADJOURNMENT

Ness, seconded by Kronmiller, moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 4-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Eklund
Deputy Clerk