

**Planning Commission
MINUTES – Regular Meeting**

**November 13, 2019
City of Hagerstown, Maryland**

Douglas S. Wright, Jr., chair, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m., on Wednesday, November 13, 2019, in the Conference Room, Fourth Floor, City Hall. Also present were commission members C. Davis, J. Stone, R. Thomas, and J. Wheeler. The following staff members were present: K. Maher, Director of Planning and Code Administration; S. Bockmiller, Development Planner/Zoning Administrator; M. Flick, Planner; and D. Calhoun, Secretary.

Roll Call.

Commission members S. McIntire and C. Ploscaru were absent.

Approval of Minutes:

October 30, 2019.

The minutes were not ready for approval.

Development Review:

None.

Planning Commission Business:

2019 Comprehensive Plan Amendments (vision Hagerstown 2035) – Amendments to Future Land use Map and Designations.

Staff Report: (See staff report in the meeting file.)

Mr. Wright indicated he received his packet the day of the meeting and asked if staff could send information out sooner. The secretary indicated that there was an issue with Outlook and she is looking into it with the IT Department.

Commission members and staff discussed the comments received during the public hearing on October 30.

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Doub Farm. Five Landis Road residents spoke about their concerns with traffic, waterways, and emergency services. It was noted that most of the Doub Farm is already designated as commercial with just a small portion on the east side subject to the comprehensive amendments. Mr. Stone pointed out that some of the concerns he heard were items that could be addressed in conjunction with the development. The Planning Commission had no concerns with the amendment proposed for the Doub Farm Area.

Institutional Zone. Paul Corderman spoke in opposition to the Institutional zoning.

YMCA. One person spoke in favor of the amendment. Staff confirmed that letters were sent in advance to property owners in the area. Nothing was received from the neighborhood on this amendment.

Maryland Department of Planning (copy in meeting file):

- Growth Management and Land Use. Staff is delaying changing these numbers in anticipation of a future amendment. City staff has been meeting with the Washington County Economic Development Commission and Planning and Utilities staff to determine priorities for the MRGA which may result in recommended adjustments and Comprehensive Plan amendments.
- Water Resources. Staff is holding off until the MRGA boundaries have been changed.

Maryland Department of Transportation (copy in meeting file). Staff indicated it is aware of the points raised by the Maryland Department of Transportation.

No other comments were received during the ten-day comment period. Staff would like to hold a public hearing with the Mayor and City Council on December 17.

Ms. Davis asked how the percentages listed in the staff memo stack up to other cities of similar size in the state. Ms. Maher said it is common to have a large amount of residential zoning in a city. When this amendment is complete, it will be truer to how most of the land is really used. Other commission members were interested in seeing comparisons to other cities. Staff will see if there are links to other jurisdictions that could be sent to Planning Commission members.

MOTION: (Stone/Davis) I make a motion that we recommend to the Mayor and Council the changes to the Comprehensive Plan land designations.

DISCUSSION: None.

ACTION: APPROVED (Unanimous)

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2020 Meeting Schedule – April Meeting Dates.

Due to a conflict with Yom Kippur in the middle of April, Commission members agreed to hold the first meeting in April on April 1. Veterans Day also falls on the second Wednesday in November. This date was changed to November 4 since City Hall is closed on Veteran’s Day.

MOTION: (Wheeler/Thomas) I’ll make that motion to accept the meeting schedule.

DISCUSSION: None.

ACTION: APPROVED (Unanimous)

Board of Zoning Appeals Agenda – November Hearing.

The Planning Commission had no comments to relay to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Announcements.

The chair noted that there may be a vacancy in the future on the Board of Zoning Appeals and asked commission members to think about potential names to pass on to the Mayor for consideration.

Adjourn. It was moved and seconded that the meeting adjourn (7:25 p.m.)

12/11/2019

Approved



Debra C. Calhoun – Secretary