



**Minutes of the Planning Commission
2022 Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing
16 February 2022**

Approved: 2 March 2022

This meeting was held online using the Zoom App. Attendees could attend by video or telephone.

Attendees: Commissioners Georgette Cole, Christine Dibble, Robert Johnson, Deborah Mehlferber and Peter Nagrod, and Councilmembers Darrell Anderson and Pat Klein, residents Mimi Bolotin, Jon Dail, Kriss Grisham, Ernie Kawasaki, Kristina Kough, Joan Mahaffey, John McClelland, Paula Puglisi, and Jane Seegal.

Call to order 7:34 pm.

1) Peter moved approval of the agenda; Robert seconded. Approved 5/0.

2) Comprehensive Plan process to date: Georgette briefly reviewed the process and opened the floor to public testimony.

3) Comprehensive Plan testimony:

- a) **Jane Seegal.** First: She stated she wants to make sure mansionization is addressed. She saw “infill” on page 131 but that isn’t what’s needed. Second: She said propane explosions are a real issue as evidenced by the recent one in Laytonsville. This should be addressed in Washington Grove where so many propane tanks are adjacent to drivable roads/walkways. Third: She said there was a paragraph about Emory Grove where the final sentence made no sense. That should be checked.

- b) **John McClelland.** He stated he will probably put his comments in writing as well. First: He said he was frustrated by a lack of response from questions he submitted to the RASEC committee. This included a request for their definition of racial equity versus racial equality. He followed this with statements related specifically to the CP. Second: In CP Section 12.3 it is statistically inaccurate to compare Washington Grove (220 acres, about 500 residents) to Montgomery County (320,000 acres, 1.062 million residents). To draw correlations is crazy. Third: In the historical section on the racially motivated deed covenants he’d like to see a more positive tone. The language is very “broad brush” here and to apply it to all residents is unfair. Fourth: He is concerned about the focus on racial diversity only. What about religion, sexual orientation, gender, political thought, disabilities, and educational level? He then returned to some of the questions he had for RASEC and never got a response on.

Georgette thanked him and said a written submission would still be very helpful.

Peter invited John to include suggested language (verbiage) if he had some to share.

John said the scope of the work in the CP was amazing. Thank you for everything. He'll be happy to make some suggestions. He said he just want a more positive spin on some of the subject matter.

Georgette reiterated a request for written feedback if anyone had Comprehensive Plan material about which they still had questions or concerns.

John had an additional comment concerning the section calling for no change to the current 4 cars per residential property section. He said it was needed, but that the usual lack of Grove enforcement was an ongoing problem. On the other hand, he doesn't want to live in a "police state".

Peter moved to adjourn at 7:58 pm.

Since the hearing was shorter than expected, Georgette (instead of Kathy) will prepare minutes for circulation to Commissioners and posting to the Town web site.

Our next work session will be March 16.

Submitted by Georgette Cole