

WASHINGTON COUNTY
MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 23, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Radermacher at 3:30 p.m. at the Public Agency Center, Room 3224. Those present included:

Members Present:

David Radermacher County Board Supervisor, Chairperson
Lawrence Hoffman County Board Supervisor, Vice Chairperson
Linda Walter Health Department Director
Linda Olson Director, Aging and Disability Resource Center

Staff:

Joshua Glass Planner
Washington County Planning and Parks Department

Joanne Wagner Office Manager
Washington County Planning and Parks Department

Paul Mueller Administrator
Washington County Planning & Parks Dept.

Excused Absence:

James Schwartz County Board Supervisor

Unexcused Absence:

Ken Pesch Highway Department

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS: Call Meeting to Order/Review Agenda

Chairman Radermacher called the meeting to order. Quorum present.

SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS: Approval of August 30, 2007 minutes

Motion by Walter, seconded by Olson to approved the August 30th, 2007 minutes as submitted. Motion carried.

THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS: Review and approval of Chapter X – Housing Element

Planner Joshua Glass introduced himself. Glass stated that he was filling in for Debora Sielski and that he will present Chapter X.

Parts 1, 2, and 3 have been reviewed by this Committee in the past. The Housing, Utilities and Community Facilities, and Economic Development (HUED) Workgroup has provided some comments since TAC reviewed these parts. Glass stated he would like to

review these comments and see if this Committee has any additional suggestions or input to go along with them. Part 4, the recommendations portion of the chapter, will be reviewed in more detail.

Glass reviewed HUED's comments which included a concern about the number of potential homes that could contain lead-based paint or varnish (page 7 in Chapter 10).

Glass referred the Committee to Part 4, Recommendations, on page 26 which sets forth housing goals, objectives, policies, and programs.

Glass read the 1st program on page 28 which involved studying the possibility of creating a County Housing Council to address housing issues. The HUED Workgroup had concerns about the language used. They were concerned about the plan "having teeth" due to the use of words such as "study the possibility of," "encourage," and "promote". Discussion ensued regarding current problems where individuals have no where to go for assistance with their housing concerns.

Olson and Walter both emphasized that there are many more housing problems in the County than have been formerly acknowledged or understood. Centralized solutions need to be considered through a council within the County that would function as a clearing house for all of the municipalities to filter their issues through. This would provide a uniform procedure and standard practices.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Walter, to change the language of the first program on page 28 from "Study the possibility of creating" to "Create a County Housing Council to address housing issues at a centralized location". Motion carried unanimously.

Glass reviewed page 29, Housing Cost/Workforce Housing Issue

The 3rd program on page 32 was discussed. Olson wasn't sure that "encourage the development of" is the proper wording. The committee did not want to send the message that the County just wants to build more nursing homes. Olson suggested saying "support" instead of "encourage" and at the very end say "where and when there is a need for them" instead of just "where".

On page 32, under the policy "Continue services offered by the County to assist elderly householders with living in traditional housing", Olson wished to change the name "Community Options Program" wherever it shows up in the document to "community based long term care programs" because after two years, there won't be a Community Options Program.

Olson also suggested changing the reference to "the Department of Social Services" to "Washington County".

The 2nd objective under the Housing Preference Issue on page 33 was discussed. Radermacher asked if development implied by this objective was referring to rural areas. Repeated concern was expressed about development in rural areas, and that attention needs to be given as there is a real problem with water availability and water quality issues. Glass mentioned that the Planning Division has done some research on the number of housing tools that have been used in communities throughout the Country. A handout was created for the HUED Workgroup and is available on the County website.

Glass referred the Committee to a handout containing photos to add to the chapter. The Committee reviewed the photos. Glass told the Committee to please let he or Deb know if they have any suggestions for photos regarding housing inventory.

Glass reminded the Committee to call Deb or him any time to provide comments or suggestions.

Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Olson to approve Chapter 10 as reviewed, including the requested changes. Motion carried.

FOURTH ORDER OF BUSINESS: Discuss Future Meeting Dates and Times

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 27 at 1:00 p.m. in room 3224 of the Public Agency Center.

FIFTH ORDER OF BUSINESS: Public Comment

No one present from the public.

SIXTH ORDER OF BUSINESS: Adjournment

Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Olson to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Sielski
Assistant Administrator for Planning

Approved by _____
David N. Radermacher, Chairperson

Date _____