

RECORD OF MEETING

Williston Comprehensive Plan Subcommittee of the Planning Advisory Committee

Discussion about Draft Goals and Objectives for the Comprehensive Plan

March 6, 2009, 10:00 a.m.
Williston City Hall

Members in Attendance:

Kent Jarcik
Monte Meiers

Frank Keogh
Brent Bogar
Jenelle Loomer

Glenn Boyeff
Tom Rolfstad
Cindy Gray (via telephone)

Representing:

City of Williston Planning Department
City of Williston and Williams County Engineering
Department

Economic Development
Williston City Commission
Williams County Planning
Williston Planning Commission
City of Williston Economic Development
SRF Consulting Group, Inc.

Kent Jarcik explained how the goals and objectives fit in with the larger process of developing the Comprehensive Plan. He discussed anticipated next steps and further review of the goals and objectives by the Planning Advisory Committee. Kent asked Cindy to explain the draft goals and objectives document and stated that since the document is quite long, it may be best to see what comments the group has rather than to go through each item separately.

Cindy explained that the goals are broad statements of direction for the community, while the objectives are more specific accomplishments that, if implemented, work toward achieving that goal. She explained that the goals are divided into several subjects, including:

- Housing, Residential Development, and Neighborhoods
- Commercial Land Use and Development
- Industrial Land Use and Development
- Parks, Recreation and Open Space
- Public Facilities and Services
- Environmental Preservation
- Transportation

She stated that she had also sent Kent a very generalized list of thoughts about goals and objectives relating to youth and young families, which could either be a separate subject area, or

addressed under the other subject areas. She explained that she referred to the goals and objectives of the existing plan for information, guidance, and ideas, so as to continue using the positive aspects of that plan. Notations were made next to each goal or objectives statement that is the same or similar to a goal or policy in the existing plan.

Comments and discussion about the goals and objectives consisted of the following:

1. Include a goal or objective for expansion of the ETA out to the two-mile limit (pending legislation).
2. Make note the first objective under Housing Goal 5 regarding a complete network of sidewalks along all city streets. Monte is concerned that this would be a change in policy, and wants to ensure that the community recognizes this. The matter of the need for sidewalks was discussed in the industrial parks. Cindy Gray stated that the public health relationship to planning suggests that sidewalks should be made available in all land uses, to acknowledge that walking is an important means of exercise, and making it as available as possible is a characteristic of a healthy community.
3. The rental housing inspection program and safe rental housing program included in the objectives were discussed, and the present decision of the subcommittee was to leave those in the goals and objectives for discussion by the Planning Advisory Committee.
4. Regarding Commercial Land Use and Development Goal 3, first objective – Monte suggested that the word “create” should be added to the beginning of this objective to ensure that developments end up setting their sidewalk back from the street, thereby creating a boulevard in which to plant trees. He stated that all too often, developers want to place their sidewalk adjacent to the street, and then end up with no boulevard, hence no boulevard tree plantings.
5. Add a goal or objective to the Parks and Open Space section regarding coordination and communication between the park district, school district, city and county.
6. Add language that relates to working with the Park District to establish a master plan for parks.
7. The group agreed that the Little Muddy River Corridor (portion owned by the Army Corps) should be in some kind of a public zone. They generally felt that the corridor has been ignored, and is an asset to the community that should be enhanced.
8. The group discussed having a series of “public” zones for different purposes such as the airport, cemeteries, the landfill, the college, the hospital, etc.
9. Tom Rolfstad suggested a reference to horizontal oil drilling in the Environmental Preservation section. This type of drilling allows access to oil without placing oil wells immediately over the source, so there is potentially less impact to certain sensitive or developed areas. (Note: This also brings up the issue of other alternative energy sources, such as wind turbines, and consideration of the city’s regulations relative to these structures.)
10. In Goal 3 of the Environmental section, there’s an objective referring to recycling of junk vehicles and the potential use of natural gas currently burned off at drill sites. It was pointed out that this gas generally is not useable in its raw form, and needs to be refined before it can be used as an energy source. The group agreed that this objective should remain, and pointed out that the problem is more applicable to the ETA than the city itself.
11. Also in the Environmental Preservation section, Goal 6 could be reworded to say “premature development” instead of “premature use”.

12. With regard to the Transportation section, Monte pointed out that the city currently has a poor management system of trails, relative to maintenance. He suggested that the city and Park District need to address this if they want to expand the trail system.
13. The desirability of extending University Avenue to the north as an arterial, from 26th Street to 42nd Street N and Spring Lake Park was discussed. Cindy stated this is being shown in the land use and street layouts.
14. The group was favorable to the written statements relating to young families and youth. They suggested that the statements could, in some cases, be related to the Parks and Open Space section.