

**LEXINGTON PLANNING COMMISSION  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2010  
5:00 P.M.**

**First floor meeting room in the  
Rockbridge County Administrative Office Building**

**Minutes**

**Members Present:** C. Smith      C. Miller      T. Sanders      J. Dunbar  
J. Gianniny      M. Harvey

**Staff Present:** B. Blatter; Director of Planning and Development  
V. Garrett; Secretary of Planning and Development

**Call to Order:** J. Dunbar called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

**Citizens' Comments on matters not on the Agenda:** None to record.

**Old Business:**

C. Miller gave an update on the Small Business Focus Groups. There will be three separate groups. The four questions to be addressed will be:

- 1) What are the advantages, to you, of doing business in and around Lexington?
- 2) Are there any barriers to doing business that the City could or should assist in removing?
- 3) What one or two things, if any, do you feel that the City could or should do to enable a business such as yours to survive and thrive?
- 4) If you were advising the Planning Commission and City Council on strengthening Lexington's economy and its tax base, what advice would you offer?

The focus groups will meet in the Community Meeting Room at City Hall on February 9, February 10, and February 16, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.

**New Business:** None to record.

**Comprehensive Plan:**

**\* Initial review of the Government Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan**

Planning Commissioners discussed the initial draft of the Government Chapter. C. Miller pointed out some key topics that are missing from the chapter including the Moody rating (threats/challenges), how we compare with similar localities (Peer + 1), the debt ratio, and other similar issues. Other suggestions included adding language on non-partisan council, the level of service that should be provided to citizens by government, and the government taking increasing environmentally responsible measures.

Recommendations need to be added to the chapter. The discussion on annexation needs to be tightened up.

**\* Update on the Housing Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan**

The Planning Department did not receive the edited version of the Housing Chapter in time to get it distributed to the Planning Commission. The final version will be sent out in the next week. C. Miller asked that B. Blatter only use the essential appendixes when putting the final draft together.

**\* Update on the Economy Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan**

Joint meeting with City Council at 7:00 p.m. in the first floor meeting room at City Hall to discuss the CIP and the economy.

**City Council Report:** Council did not meet.

**Staff Report:**

B. Blatter handed out copies of Rockbridge County's draft of the Economy Chapter. He recently attended a Community Development Block Grant seminar in Richmond. The present deal concerning the R.E. Lee building is not going to happen. A parking meeting will be held Tuesday, February 2, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. at City Hall.

**Approval of Minutes:**

T. Sanders moved to approve the November 12, 2009 minutes as presented. J. Gianniny gave the second. The motion passed.

C. Miller moved to approve the January 14, 2010 minutes with corrections. J. Gianniny gave the second. The motion passed.

**Adjourn:** J. Dunbar adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.