

**LEXINGTON PLANNING COMMISSION  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2009  
5:00 P.M.**

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

**Minutes**

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

**Members Absent:** C. Miller

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

**Call to Order:** J. Dunbar called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Citizens' Comments on Matters Not on the Agenda:** None to record.

**Public Hearing:**

- \* **Proposed amendments to the City of Lexington Zoning Ordinance to remove building height as a development standard which may be waived and to correct internal inconsistencies in Article XIX, Planned Unit Development**

J. Ellestad, City Manager, addressed the Planning Commission in regard to the direction they are taking with continued changes to the PUD Article. A discussion was held on removing building height as a development standard which may be waived. The PUD in relation to the Housing Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan was also discussed.

J. Gianniny moved to recommend approval of the proposed amendments to the City of Lexington Zoning Ordinance to remove building height as a development standard which may be waived and to correct internal inconsistencies in Article XIX, Planned Unit Development. M. Harvey gave the second. The motion passed.

The proposal will move forward to City Council for a public hearing.

**Old Business:** None to record.

**New Business:**

- \* **Discussion concerning economic development in Lexington**

A conversation was held on the natural expansion of the downtown, a continuous storefront, and what brings people downtown. Discussion was held on downtown stores not being open on sundays.

Signage was discussed. Tourism is currently working on updating the wayfinding signage. The Planning Commission agreed that updating signage is key to promoting the growth of economic development.

Twitter, Face Book, and Trip Advisor were discussed. Tourism currently takes advantage of these applications.

The City has not heard whether they will receive the Broadband grant.

G. Macleod recommended working with the universities to coordinate downtown events with university events in hopes to draw more people downtown.

J. Ellestad indicated many of these ideas will require consultants but the money is simply not available. J. Dunbar suggested partnering with the local universities to reduce the City's share.

A meeting is scheduled for later, 7:30 p.m., at City Hall to continue the discussion on economic development.

## **Comprehensive Plan**

### **\* Review of Housing Chapter**

G. Macleod suggested a specific recommendation for a home buyer program for City employees and a recommendation and goal related to density bonuses. She had previously sent an email regarding these issues. B. Blatter will locate the email and distribute to Planning Commissioners.

Corrections/changes were noted by B. Blatter. They will be incorporated into the chapter.

Further discussion on the Housing Chapter will be held at the next meeting.

### **City Council Report:**

No report given.

### **Staff Report**

No report given.

### **Approval of Minutes**

J. Gianniny moved approval of the October 8, 2009 minutes and the October 22, 2009 minutes as corrected by J. Dunbar. M. Harvey gave the second. The motion passed.

**Adjourn:** J. Dunbar adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:55 p.m.