



Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

Written by Mayor Rod Erskine

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Comprehensive Planning

Hopefully, most of you are aware that the development of the city's new Comprehensive Plan officially got underway with the first meeting of the Comprehensive Planning Advisory Committee (CPAC) being held on May 13, 2014. The committee consists of a group of fifteen residents appointed by council at the April 2014 council meeting who will be meeting on a regular basis with the consulting firm Freese & Nichols to develop the Comprehensive Plan. The role of the residents is to ensure input from all members of our community - residents, civic groups, and business owners - is collected and considered in the process of charting a vision for the long term development of our city.

This plan is a document that must be approved by city council, which describes the manner that we desire Jersey Village to grow and develop over the next 20 years. It addresses future land uses such as development of Jersey Crossing, potential annexations, and anticipated impact on the city's infrastructure, services, and community facilities. The plan may also contain recommendations for amending our zoning and local ordinances to facilitate achieving the plan's goals and objectives.

Our current Comprehensive Plan was written in 1989, and while being an interesting historical document, outlived its usefulness some time ago. This document is posted on the city's website if you are interested in comparing the vision from 25 years ago with the reality of today. I credit Council Member Harry Beckwith for bringing the issue of the outdated plan to council's attention, and initiating the current effort. Council appointed Harry as Council Liaison to the CPAC.

Harry and I both attended the initial CPAC meeting on May 13. The consultants from Freese & Nichols presented "Comprehensive Planning 101", and then the committee members had an opportunity to individually discuss their perspective on both the strengths of our city, and challenges. Council selected a very diverse group of members for the committee from the perspective of age, gender, background, previous experience on committees, and interests - and this was reflected in the broad range of comments. Nobody was shy about speaking up, and I anticipate many "lively" discussions.

As mentioned earlier, your input is critical. The city webpage has a Comprehensive Planning link which will take you to an online survey. I hope you will take the opportunity to participate by providing your feedback. You will also be able to view meeting materials and other documents as they are posted.

In closing, remember that Election Day for the City Council Position 5 runoff election is Saturday, June 28, 2014 at City Hall, and will be preceded by early voting. As proven in the regular election where a single vote was the difference between winning versus a runoff, your vote does count. Please take the time to cast your ballot.

Until next month,

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