

EXHIBIT A

CITY OF NEWBERG COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT ELEMENT

I. INTRODUCTION

In Newberg, as elsewhere, one of the City's most important resources is its citizens. Local residents affect and are affected by land use decisions and consequently need to be closely and continuously involved in the planning process. Plans and programs can only achieve widespread acceptance when citizens are informed and participate throughout the decision-making process. Opportunities need to be created in all phases of the process to facilitate two-way communication between citizens and elected officials.

II. CURRENT PROGRAM

Newberg's citizen involvement program has two distinct components: 1) the Citizen Advisory Process (CAP); and 2) the Citizen Involvement Committee (CIC). The CAP facilitates citizen participation in planning projects, while the CIC monitors local citizen participation. In addition to these two components, the City regularly disseminates information to the public through the local media and the City newsletter. Involvement is also encouraged through citizen participation at public hearings.

A. Citizen Advisory Process (CAP)

The CAP is a mechanism by which citizens and community interest groups are given the opportunity to comment on upcoming issues before the Planning Commission and City Council. The interest groups receive information on an issue prior to the public hearing. Staff is available to answer questions on the information provided. A public workshop may also be held on a particular issue prior to the public hearing. The CAP provides a formal process to ensure two-way communication between interested parties and decision-makers.

A minimum of five interest groups participate in the CAP: economic development, public/quasi-public, neighborhood, environmental, and social service. Ideally, individuals representing the aforementioned groups will act as a liaison between their interest groups and the City. CAP participants are not limited to these five groups; any individual or interest group may participate in the CAP. The City Planning Department is charged with maintaining a list of interest groups and participants.

B. Citizen Involvement Committee (CIC)

The role of the CIC is to evaluate local citizen involvement. The committee consists of the Planning Commission plus five additional citizens. The CIC evaluates the Citizen Advisory Process in terms of the following measures: 1) the level of citizen involvement

and influence; 2) the technical information made available to citizens; 3) the feedback mechanism in place to ensure two-way communication between citizens and policy-makers; and 4) the staff support provided to the Citizen Advisory Process.

C. Information Dissemination

The current program of citizen involvement includes a process of information dissemination and the holding of public hearings. Information on planning activities is distributed in the quarterly City newsletter. The newsletter contains meeting dates and times as well as reports on current plans and programs. In addition, the "Newberg Graphic", the local weekly paper, covers many civic activities and is used to publish hearing notices and meeting schedules. Meetings are generally held by each planning body on a regular schedule. These proceedings and all special meetings are open to the public and are well publicized, creating many opportunities for public input.

III. PREVIOUS METHOD OF CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

From 1976 to 1991, Newberg had a separate committee to provide a forum for citizen participation. The Citizen Involvement Advisory Committee (CIAC) was a body concerned primarily with long-range planning and made recommendations to both the Planning Commission and the City Council. The Advisory Committee was also designated as the Committee for Citizen Involvement (CCI). As such, the Committee was responsible for annually evaluating the effectiveness of citizen involvement in the planning process and recommending changes which were considered necessary.

The Committee had 12 members, each representing a different interest group or neighborhood. Interests which were represented included: George Fox College; the Newberg Chamber of Commerce; industrial interests; the Newberg School District; the Chehalem Park and Recreation District; the building trades; the northeast, northwest, southeast and southwest neighborhoods; the Planning Commission and the City Council.

The CIAC was active during the development of the City Comprehensive Plan and met during the initial stages of Periodic Review. The CIAC did not meet from 1987 to 1991. During that period, the terms of all appointed members expired.

IV. ANALYSIS OF CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

The City of Newberg has a sound and comprehensive citizen involvement program. While a citizens advisory committee no formally longer meets to advise the Planning Commission and City Council on long term planning projects, more interest groups and individuals are given the opportunity to participate in the planning process. The CAP does not have a set membership; rather, it establishes a dynamic process of citizen involvement which allows any interested party to participate fully.

The CIC provides an effective means to evaluate citizen involvement. The CIC has a set of criteria by which to evaluate local citizen involvement. The flexible nature of the CAP makes it a dynamic program capable of easily incorporating feedback from the CIC and others.

V. CITIZEN CONCERNS

In 1989 and 1990, the City of Newberg conducted random opinion surveys of residents. The intent of the surveys was to receive feedback on citizen concerns, perceptions, and local needs. In 1977 as part of the original background inventory for the Comprehensive Plan, a survey was attached to the City water bill. Phone surveys were conducted in 1989 and 1990. Below is a brief summary of the results of the 1977 and 1990 surveys.

A. 1977 Survey

The following is a brief summary of the results of the 1977 survey:

- The most needed improvement was a highway by-pass.
- The police department was rated as providing the highest level of service.
- Remaining separate from Portland was the highest ranked community goal.
- The greatest concern was the highway through the City.
- Most citizens (75%) do not feel that there is adequate communication between City officials and the public.

B. 1990 Survey

The following is a brief summary of the results of the 1990 survey:

- The most needed improvement was a highway by-pass.
- The library was rated as providing the highest level of service.
- New transportation facilities were the highest ranked community goal.
- Transportation was considered the greatest community challenge.
- Only 21% of the respondents indicated that a City newsletter deserved much emphasis.

VI. OTHER AGENCIES

Several governmental bodies have planning interests which relate to the City of Newberg. Decisions made by these agencies at times affect Newberg and its citizens, while planning decisions made in Newberg also frequently impact activities of the various other state, local and federal agencies. In order to help improve coordination between Newberg's Planning Department and other agencies, a list of agencies with related planning responsibilities and their functions has been included in the Appendix to the Inventory of Natural and Cultural Resources.