PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
OCTOBER 9, 2014 7:00 PM
NEWBERG PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING (401 EAST THIRD STREET)

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Art Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present:	Art Smith, Chair	Matt Fortner	Philip Smith
	Gary Bliss	Mayor Andrews, ex-officio	
	Luis Saavedra, Student Commissioner		
Members Absent:	Cathy Stuhr (excused), Jason Dale (excused), Allyn Edwards (excused)		
Staff Present:	Steve Olson, Interim Planning & Building Director	Nicole Tannler, Minutes Recorder	

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Smith opened and closed public testimony as there was no one to testify.

IV. NUAMC POSITION RECOMMENDATION: Mayor Andrews has requested that the Planning Commission make a recommendation on which commissioner should be appointed to NUAMC, and which should be the alternate. Thomas Barnes was the regular member, and Allyn Edwards was the alternate. The Planning Commissioners discussed making this recommendation at the next meeting.

V. WORKSHOP: Planning Commissioner training

1. Recent Planning Commissioner training class: We will ask those who attended the session to pass on what they learned to the rest of the commission.

Commissioner Gary Bliss stated there were eye openers in the involvement in the planning process.

Commissioner Matt Fortner said the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) was a really hot topic. There seemed to be a continuous fight against the UGB at the workshop.

Commissioner Phillip Smith stated the core of land use planning in Oregon is that we have a state list of goals and all of the jurisdictions in Oregon have to have comprehensive plans that address these goals. The 1000 Friends of Oregon is an organized group dedicated to ensuring the governmental agencies obey the laws and the rules that were made. Newberg is in the process of updating our plan to expand our UGB and add more industrial land. We have started mediation with 1000 Friends of Oregon for the UGB.

Commissioner Gary Bliss said I have always felt that visiting a site is the member's duty or responsibility, but also realize it is ex parte contact if not fully discussed.

Mr. Steve Olson said ex parte contact is if you have information on a proposal outside of the hearing process. If you have some information that you are going to base your decision on you have to give the proponents and opponents the opportunity to comment on it. Otherwise, the decision is not on solid legal ground.

2. Urban design exercise: Sketching the paths, landmarks, edges, nodes, and districts that make up Newberg.

Power point presentation was given by Mr. Steve Olson on urban design.

Mr. Olson stated the urban design of the city is the visual form of the city or urban landscape. It is good to remember the world is in 3D, while maps are only in 2D, and many of our zoning requirements affect our urban design and sense of place.

The commissioners sketched paths, landmarks, edges, nodes and districts on a map of the city of Newberg, based on what they personally think it looks like.

Mr. Olson asked if this prompts any ideas about what Newberg should encourage, change, or preserve in the urban landscape.

Mr. Gary Bliss said there is river front potential for development and preservation.

Mayor Andrews said we have natural boundaries with the mountains and river. The historic part of town is a landmark and we need to help preserve that. It would be nice to update the west entrance with the big oak tree. He also said the Bypass will be a landmark in the future.

Mr. Steve Olson said there will be some improvements at the west end with the classic car company going in, and I feel we need a link on the east end between the college kids and downtown, similar to the coffee cottage but larger and more of a draw.

VI. ITEMS FROM STAFF

1. Update on Council items

Steve Olson said the UGB mediator has been picked and we will have a meeting with him this month. We have a trio of projects which are: the TSP update, downtown revitalization grant, and the downtown transformation vision.

2. Other reports, letters or correspondence

No discussion.

3. Next planning Commission meeting: November 13, 2014 (Portable sign code hearing)

VII. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Gary Bliss discussed the silt fences and erosion control that is left behind on projects and needs to be removed.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Approved by the Newberg Planning Commission this 13th day of November, 2014.

Minutes Recorder **Planning Commission Chair**