

**MINUTES
CITY OF AMES
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION**

Date: May 18, 2010	Kori Heuss, Chairperson	2011
	*Jeff Johnson	2011
Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.	Justin Platts	2012
	Chuck Jons	2012
Place: Ames City Hall	Elizabeth Beck, Vice-Chairperson	2012
Conference Room 233	*Norman Cloud	2013
	Mark Stenberg	2013
Adjournment: 6:50 p.m.		
	*Absent	

MAJOR TOPICS DISCUSSED:

1. Discussion of Planning & Zoning Commission Priorities to the City Council

CALL TO ORDER: Kori Heuss, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. In attendance were Kori Heuss, Elizabeth Beck, and Mark Stenberg.

Discussion of Planning & Zoning Commission Priorities to the City Council

Kori Heuss indicated that this meeting will be a discussion on how to present the priorities of the Commission to the City Council at the upcoming joint meeting.

Ms. Beck directed the Commission to the “vision” found in the back of the Land Use Policy Plan. She stated it was not really a “vision” but more of “goals and benchmarks.” This is important since one of the priorities of the Commission was to have the City prepare a vision for Ames. Ms. Heuss and others discussed what a vision should be—a goal of what the city should become. The plan should be goals and objectives directed towards meeting that vision.

Ms. Heuss said that the format of this evening’s meeting was not to solve all the issues that are raised, since time is short. But rather to raise the questions to see if the Council would direct staff and the Commission to address these questions. Because of the time constraints, Ms. Heuss suggested a brief overview of the priorities, and then allow for an open discussion on each one.

Mr. Osguthorpe indicated that the mayor is expecting the chair (Ms. Heuss) to take the lead on the discussion with the Council. He also indicated that the Council has the planning base report from staff that was presented last winter.

Mr. Kuester discussed briefly what the report addressed.

Mr. Stenberg raised the question of whether the growth that occurred in the last few years is sustainable since it appears that much of that growth is of the ISU student population.

Justin Platts arrived at 6:15, establishing a quorum of the Commission.

Ms. Heuss brought back the issue of this meeting—what to talk to the Council about this evening.

A number of questions were raised on the priorities of the Commission. Mr. Osguthorpe asked what the impacts of industrial growth are. Mr. Kuester asked what are the industrial sectors that the Ames Economic Development Commission are recruiting. Ms. Beck asked about whether retail development is keeping pace with population growth.

Ms. Beck indicated that the vision of Ames is important, as that will drive what the answers are to a number of these questions.

Mr. Platts acknowledged that growth is happening, but asked what vision is being fulfilled by that growth. Ames is unlikely to be an industrial city because of the type of labor force we have. Does Ames want to be a shopping destination? The city needs to build on its strengths.

Mr. Stenberg asked whether it is the vision of Ames to be a retail center. If so, the goals and objectives of the LUPP should translate that into providing retail mall locations.

Mr. Kuester mentioned that one of the goals established by the City Council is to “create and promote a community vision.”

Ms. Beck suggested we rearrange the order of the Commission’s priorities to place vision above the LUPP update.

Mr. Jons arrived at 6:40.

Ms. Beck read from Goal #2 of the LUPP. She noted that what isn’t described is what we think about these goals.

Mr. Osguthorpe stated that the broad goals and objectives of the first chapter of the LUPP are a high level 10,000 foot overview. The specific strategies are fleshed out later in the plan.

Ms. Heuss asked about the time the Commission is allotted with the City Council. Mr. Osguthorpe indicated one hour. The Planning and Zoning Commission is on the agenda first, followed by the Historic Preservation Commission. Mr. Osguthorpe indicated that the Commission may wish to stay after their part on the agenda to listen to the priorities of the HPC.

Ms. Heuss asked how best to use the time in front of the Council. She suggested she would briefly give a background on each of the four priorities, then back up and allow about 15 minutes on each individual priority. This would ensure that each priority was discussed. Ms. Heuss said she is not expecting Council action on any item but hopes that the Council can later direct staff to address these issues.

With no further business coming before the Commission, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Kori Heuss, Chairperson
Planning & Zoning Commission

Steve Osguthorpe, Recording Secretary
Department of Planning & Housing

Charlie Kuester, Recording Secretary
Department of Planning & Housing