

February 20, 2024

Planning Commission
City of Jamestown, ss:

Proceedings by Authority

Mayor's Conference Room
Fourth Floor, Municipal Building

The special meeting of the Planning Commission for the City of Jamestown, New York was held on Tuesday, February 20, 2023 at 3:30 p.m. and was livestreamed.

Members Present: Chairman Mike Laurin, Mark Roetzer, Greg Lindquist, Ryan Thomson, Jeffrey Nelson

Members Absent: Tom Nelson

Others Present: Principal Planner Ellen Shadle, City Clerk/Treasurer Jennifer R. Williams, Councilman Joseph Paterniti, Corporation Counsel Elliot Raimondo

Chairman Mike Laurin called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Andrew Dickson appeared before the Planning Commission to discuss the complete streets program (E. 2nd Street Bike Lane). He is in favor of connectivity throughout the city. He believes it will calm traffic by adding a side strip for bikes, etc. He previously worked for the Chautauqua County Health Network and has worked with Complete Streets before.

NEW YORK PLANNING FEDERATION MEMBERSHIP

Principal Planner Ellen Shadle provided an overview of the state mandated training for boards and commissions. Previously, commission members have not taken advantage of training sessions. Ms. Shadle is looking to have commissioners take advantage of trainings to become in compliance with the state mandated trainings. The City of Jamestown has signed up for a membership with the New York Planning Federation. All members of the Department of Development, Mayoral staff members, Planning Commission members and Zoning Board of Appeals members have ready made memberships to take advantage of. Once the mandated four trainings are completed, certificates of completion are submitted to Ms. Shadle.

SITE PLAN REVIEW PROCESS

Principal Planner Ellen Shadle led a discussion on the Site Plan review process. She noted that a flow chart will be made for commissioners to follow. She noted that the Department of Development, along with the consulting firm, C&S Companies is currently in the process of

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updating the Zoning Code and the Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Shadle directed commissioners to review the Planning Commission chapter in the City Code as well as the Zoning Chapter.

The Department of Development is working to reeducate staff and community members to ensure that policies and procedures are followed, to allow for due diligence in reviewing the applications. Things have become lax over the past several years.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Chairman Laurin asked if there were any open projects, specifically highlighting the Gate Way Lofts project. The project is in transition, with financing being the concern/issue at this point. Mr. Raimondo provided a rundown of the project as it was originally proposed, to which the original plan was put forth by STEL to create a mixed use complex with affordable housing.

Mr. Lindquist asked what other programs are in the hopper to be developed. Additionally, he asked what the Planning Commission's role will be in the development of the Comprehensive Plan.

Ms. Shadle stated that the pipeline is very full as developers wait until the last moment to make the city aware of potential plans. There has been a preliminary meeting with DOD staff regarding the site of the former Oriental Star restaurant in Brooklyn Square.

Councilman Paterniti asked if Ms. Shadle had any information on the new brewery or the former Beer Snob location. Ms. Shadle is not aware of anything currently as those conversations are had primarily with the economic development arm of the department. Mr. Raimondo noted that there is a party that is very interested in purchasing the former Beer Snob.

The role of the Planning Commission in forming the Comprehensive Plan is to be decided. The department is in the early stages of forming steering committees and working with the consulting firm in terms of the needs and expectations that need to be identified.

Mr. J. Nelson reminded the commission members that people are important and their work is not just remodeling or rebuilding; it is about making people comfortable and helping build them up.

Mr. Lindquist suggested that it is important to invite the public to submit public comment. He would also like to see the Planning Commission provide their opinion on important plans such as the proposed E. 2nd Street bike lane. The commission does not want to just be a rubber stamp group. They want to be able to be a part of the decision making process and really understand the projects.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.
Jennifer R. Williams City Clerk/Treasurer