

City of Norwich
Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes
Norwich City Court

March 18, 2013
7:00 PM

Present: R. Mirabito (Chair), E. Bunce, K. Campbell, H. Graves, S. Prentice

Absent: M. Stewart, D. DeForest

Staff: T. Dreyer, J. Lawrence

I. Call to Order:

Chairman Mirabito called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. On a motion by Sheldon Prentice, the minutes of the January 21, 2013 meeting were approved by a vote of 4-0-1.

II. Comprehensive Plan Update:

Todd Dreyer mentioned that all data sets of the 2010 US Census are now available. He mentioned that the US Census website has recently been greatly improved. Mr. Dreyer said he would be updating the Census data in sections of the City's Comprehensive Plan for which it was not previously available. He said that he would like the City's Comprehensive Plan update to include more Census data comparing the city with the county and state, and also using more historic trend data.

Mr. Dreyer said that he believed that with the Commission's review of the Community Services section of the plan at this evening's meeting, the only other section to be reviewed would be the one on Real Estate Tax Base Analysis, which he suggested be done at the April 15th meeting. He suggested that the Commission review of the action plan matrix and that review of the matrix should follow in upcoming meetings. He also mentioned that an updating of photos and maps for the Comprehensive Plan should begin to be addressed. He invited Commission members to submit photographs for consideration for inclusion in the revised plan. He said that City planning staff would address the updating of maps for the plan.

The Commission reviewed the March 17th draft of the Community Services section of the Comprehensive Plan. Todd Dreyer read the bulleted lists of significant developments and achievements since the 2003 plan and the continuing issues, opportunities and challenges. Sheldon Prentice suggested that crime, particularly drug-related crime, should be listed among continuing issues. There was discussion about whether crime rates are rising in general or rising for specific types of crime. The frequency of newspaper articles concerning heroin-related criminal activity was discussed. Dreyer said he would speak with Police Chief Angelino about providing crime rate data. Harry Graves and others spoke about considering resuming the auxiliary police force and conducting another citizen's police academy.

Todd Dreyer said he thought the 2003 Comprehensive Plan devoted too much detail to City government in the Community Services section, particularly Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals matters. He suggested that City board duties are more fully described in the City Code of Ordinances.

Todd Dreyer mentioned that he was awaiting plan updates from Norwich City Schools, DCMO BOCES, Morrisville State College Norwich Campus, and the City Police Department. He mentioned that the Norwich Fire Department, the City Youth Bureau, The Place, Guernsey Library, UHS Chenango Memorial Hospital, and the Chenango County Area Agency on Aging had provided written updates. Other updates, including those for the Chenango Arts Council, the theaters, and child care, were compiled by City staff.

Kathy Campbell commented that the Perry Browne Elementary and Stanford Gibson Elementary Schools also had theaters that may be available for public use. Jason Lawrence mentioned that DCMO BOCES and the Broad Street Methodist Church have preschool programs. Harry Graves suggested that sponsors of youth programs, such as the Elks Club, Beadles Lounge, the Label Gallery, and others be listed in the Comprehensive Plan. There was discussion about the difficulty in including a list of all sponsors and how sponsors change from year to year.

Todd Dreyer discussed the addition of the Media Services description within the Community Services section. Harry Graves and others suggested changes to the coverage of radio stations. Mr. Dreyer said he would contact Mr. Graves about revising the radio station coverage.

The Commission suggested meeting next on April 15th to discuss the Real Estate Tax Base Analysis section of the Comprehensive Plan.

III Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.