

CCI Meeting Summary
April 20, 2021 | 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Jim Long (CPO 4M); Mary Manseau (Code and Ordinance Subcommittee Chair); Virginia Bruce (CPO 1, CCI Co-Chair); Ben Marcotte (CPO 3); Stan Houseman (CPO 3); Liles Garcia (CPO 6); ~~Bruce Bartlett (CPO 1, CCI Secretary); Paul Johnson (CPO 15);~~ Lars Wahlstrom (CPO 10); Jill Warren (CPO 4M); Gretchen Buehner (CPO 4K); ~~Greg Malinowski (CPO 7); Richard Smith (CPO 10);~~ Mahesh Udata (CPO 7; CCI Co-Chair); Fran Warren (CPO 1); Raymond Eck (CPO 6); Kay Gooding (CPO 4K);

Meeting Scribes: Highland Edelman and Marcus Ford, Washington County Community Engagement Program Coordinators

County Staff:

Highland Edelman and Marcus Ford, Washington County Community Engagement Program Coordinators; Theresa Cherniak, LUT; Kathryn Harrington, BoC; Melissa De Lyser, LUT; Brenda Schaffer, WCSO;

Approximate total attendance: 30

Welcome, Introductions, Prior Meeting Summary:

- Meeting Called to Order at 6:59 pm by – Virginia Bruce
- Introductions & Check-in
- Review of minutes – Gretchen moved to approve – Mary seconded – 11 in favor, 1 abstained
- Announcements
 - Steven Roberts to come to the May meeting – he wants a list of questions, they will firm that up at Steering Committee meeting Monday.
 - They may set up a dropbox so that draft minutes can be available to all CCI members easier
 - Ellen Partal has been doing great work in the communications subcommittee
 - SB 315 – a bill passed by the house to require students to take a civics class – Stan is wondering if CCI would like to write a letter in support.
 - Gretchen moved & Liles seconded – 9 in favor – 2 abstained

Chair Harrington's Annual Visit to CCI – Kathryn Harrington

Presentation by Kathryn Harrington

Virginia asks what the increase in COVID cases in Washington County will mean for us – Chair Harrington says we will be moving from moderate to high risk, which means businesses can only operate at about a 25% capacity because of the recent community spread. This will last at least two weeks. Virginia asks why COVID is on the rise – Chair Harrington says OHA is giving good updates as to where COVID cases are coming from and attributes it to larger group gatherings and community members are just feeling fatigued with COVID restrictions and letting down their guard.

Ellen asked about hybrid models for CPO/CCI – both Zoom and in person – Virginia added Zoom has allowed more people to come to community meetings. Chair Harrington added she thinks video conferencing is here to stay. The BoC will continue to have an online component.

Fran asked if there are any specific demographics incurring greater COVID spread, and what can they do to help – Chair Harrington responded OHA webpage has a wealth of information. She encouraged people to encourage friends and family to keep wearing their masks and get vaccinated.

Virginia commented that Equity work is going to be for nothing if Climate Change isn't addressed.

Mary asked about ordinance season – is there a possibility to increase the amount of time that the public has a chance to provide feedback – Chair Harrington responded that Theresa will take note of that, and this is the first year without the hard stop and we are all in this together to learn what the process is going to be like now.

Virginia commented that staff doesn't like change so they need the Board to tell them to make these changes.

Gretchen commented that the community engagement is kind of clunky. It's not always easy to work the system to get information. She has an idea and would like to set up a time to talk to Chair Harrington on the phone.

Ellen asked what does the chair consider to be the most valuable asset from CPO/CCI – their voices.

Susan commented that it is demotivating that community feedback from CCI hasn't been considered.

Virginia asks how CCI/CPOs can best get their concerns to the Board – Chair Harrington seeks to clarify that CCI/CPOs hear back that the Board has heard their concerns and is not prioritizing them but CCI/CPOs are not told why, is that correct? Virginia confirms. Chair says in decision-making, they look at the various items that need attention, ones they know they have to do something about, ones that might impact the largest number of people, or are problematic in some way that they can do something about both in time and budget. Then they move forward on those ideas. Used studies into short-term rentals in the County as an example of an issue they heard about from CPOs and moved forward on.

Virginia says she hasn't heard Chair Harrington speak on climate change yet – Chair Harrington says the Board directed the CEO of Clean Water Services and County Administrator, Tanya Ange, to put reports together on what the County has been doing to address challenges on climate and what additional suggestions we might implement. Asked them to adapt the Governor's climate recommendations where possible. Adopted an Earth Day proclamation today and received annual report from Sustainability Division.

Mary noted that CE hasn't been getting them relevant information about topics that are coming forward. It's a broken system.

LUT Long Range Planning – Theresa Cherniak

Presentation by Theresa Cherniak

Mahesh asked how many years is a "long term plan" – Theresa responded some of it is 20+ years but it varies depending on the project

Mahesh then asked how does the work of a 20 year plan get rolled over from planning team to planning team – Theresa replied they used to use a process called periodic review, but this is no longer required. The current comprehensive plan is fairly old.

Gretchen noted she has served twice on the long term transportation planning committee and commented that it is important to review the transportation plan at least every ten years

Lars asked about the GIS overlapping with property lines incorrectly being an issue for years. It is a bad reflection on the county to have incorrect data out for that long – Theresa noted she has been made aware of that before, and there were some legal problems addressing it.

Fran clarified for the group the letter they wrote was discussing an URBAN tree code, not a rural issue.

Fran asked if there is hope of changing anything within the work plan – Theresa noted it is the board that has to be convinced. A tree code may be more of a city issue than a county issue.

Mary asked if we are looking at ordinances through an equity lens, can we look at them through a climate change lens as well? – Theresa responded they haven't specifically thought about it in that way – Mary will put it in a letter

Mary thanked Theresa for the update to the draft staff report for the LR Planning Work Program to include additional information on the service station request. Mary questioned the staff response about staff's concerns that limiting the number of pumps could render the placement of a gas station as economically infeasible in Neighborhood Commercial. Mary also questioned how code is interpreted when the 1980s code was written in a time when mega gas stations did not exist in Washington County. Kay asked about filling stations/gas stations – are we going to have a need for these moving forward with electric cars? We need to think about this

Code and Ordinance Subcommittee Update – Mary Manseau:

They met last week and Theresa was able to attend.

A lot of things that have been going to long range planning have NOT been long range issues.

They should split their issues into separate letters – one going directly to the board, and one going to long range planning.

Mary read/reviewed a letter drafted to the board re: long range planning

Gretchen moved to approve the letter; Mary seconded. Lars verbally disagreed to any tree code – a small group of people shouldn't be deciding what people do with their property.

10 in favor, 1 against, 1 abstained

Second letter for review to staff

Gretchen moved to have CCI steering approve the second letter, Jim seconded. 11 in favor 2 abstained

Communications Subcommittee – Ellen Partal:

New format for the matrix for communication. They worked with Melissa closely on this.

Discussions of letter going to the library and being emailed.

There is a lot of backing from state requirements about what staff should be doing.

Discussed social media and YouTube – will be making a YouTube channel and each CPO can create a channel under the larger CCI YouTube page

Significant Natural Resources Subcommittee Update – Jim Long:

Jill reports they are back at square one. 869a was approved by the commission, and now there is a bulldozer in the field and they are ready to develop. Everything they have done in the last 5 years is going to be erased.

They are trying to implement the migratory bird treaty act.

The developers have the clout

Gretchen suggested having a coordinated effort to bring up SNR at Board meetings

Jim reported they meet the second Tuesday of each month and continue to be disappointed by how the County is handling things.

Jim noted we need to get back into focus about why this is important to the County.

Gretchen suggested they compare what the cities are doing verse what the county is doing.

Lars noted that between him and his neighbor they planted about 7000 trees following Oregon land use laws

Upcoming proposed CCI meetings – Virginia Bruce

- May – Stephen Roberts
- June – Scientific impact of SNR?
- July – Steve Berger?

Emerging Issues: CPO updates, Relevant, Request for Help, Spark an Idea:

Public Comment:

Adjourn:

Jim moved to adjourn meeting – Gretchen seconded
Meeting adjourned at 9:09pm