

Planning Commission



Minutes of the Thursday, March 16, 2017 Regular Meeting

Members of the Planning Commission

Woods Burnett
Chairman

Leonard Carter, Jr.
Timothy V. Key
Larry Watts

Bob Clark
JoAnn McKie
Briton Williams

1. **Call to Order** – The March 16, 2017 regular meeting, having been duly publicized, was called to order by Chairman Woods Burnett at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.
2. **Roll Call** -- Members present were Chairman Woods Burnett and Commissioners Len Carter, Bob Clark, JoAnn McKie, Larry Watts and Briton Williams. Commissioner Tim Key was absent. Also present were Charles Martin, Interim Director of Planning and Development; Kuleigh Baker, Administrative Assistant for Planning and Engineering; City Councilman Jimmy Adams; members of the public; and the press.
3. **Approval of Minutes** – At the recommendation of the Chairman, the minutes of the March 13, 2017 special called meeting will be considered for approval at the next meeting of the Planning Commission.
4. **Confirmation of Agenda** – There were no changes made to the agenda.
5. **Draft 2017 Comprehensive Plan** –

A. Public Comments: Chairman Burnett recognized members of the public in attendance and opened the floor for comments on the Draft 2017 Comprehensive Plan.

Joel Ozborn, 601 Savannah Barony, asked for clarification on the plan for Greenway access to Downtown using alleyways.

Mr. Martin outlined the general routing of the proposed Downtown Greenway Connector and stated that there were several methods for creating safe street crossings for bikeways, etc. Mr. Martin also pointed out that engineering and design of the Downtown Greenway Connector had not been done.

Mr. Ozborn asked if the plan would allow for South Carolina to work with Georgia to time traffic lights and avoid congestion due to the proposed traffic calming. Chairman Burnett noted that there were several proposals outlined in the draft prepared by Stantec including the use of streetscapes, center medians, and midblock crossings to slow traffic and make the roads safer for bicyclists and pedestrians. The Chairman and Commissioners referred to page 172 of the Draft 2017 Comprehensive Plan in regards to parking and said many decisions would be dependent upon SCDOT regulations.

Rob Harris, 1800 Flamingo Road, asked the commissioners when the Planning Commission was formed and how long they have worked together as a group on the Draft 2017 Comprehensive Plan. Chairman Burnett stated that the Planning Commission is a long-standing body required by state law. Charles Martin added that the City has been working with Stantec for just under two years on the comprehensive plan. Mr. Harris suggested that the Planning Commission take a group trip to Chattanooga, TN to see how reverse angle parking and pedestrian bridges have positively impacted city development.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Ozborn and Mr. Harris for their input.

B. Commission Review and Discussion: Chairman Burnett asked the commissioners for any changes relating to typos, page references, factual correctness, etc. prior to discussion of the plan. The commissioners then entered into discussions on the Core Principals and Top 10 Recommendations and how they related to each other. The recommendations are presented by Stantec as a simple listing and not by priority.

Commissioner Williams suggested that when adopting the Comprehensive Plan and recommending it to City Council, the Commission request priority be placed on recommendations 1-4 dealing with Downtown.

Commissioner McKie expressed concern that the plan did not provide a detailed plan of action for implementing the overall vision.

Commissioner Carter pointed out that the plan does not address education.

It was the general consensus that the plan should be recommended to City Council as presented, with all modified corrections, and without emphasis on any particular recommendation. It was also pointed out that the Commission could uphold the plan every time an application came to them for review. The Planning Commission members could also work with City Council in seeing that the plan is implemented. The Commission should review its implementation annually.

On motion by Chairman Burnett, second by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved the Draft 2017 Comprehensive Plan as modified for typos, page references, map enlargements, and factual corrections, and recommended that it be forwarded to City Council for Official Adoption.

6. **Staff Reports** – Mr. Martin stated a few errors in the February 2017 Monthly Report were pointed out by Commissioner McKie that would be corrected.
7. **Adjourn** – Chairman Burnett thanked Councilman Jimmy Adams for attending the meeting and with no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Planning Commission
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
March 16, 2017

Page 3

Respectfully Submitted,

Kuleigh Baker
Administrative Assistant, Planning & Engineering
Secretary to the Planning Commission