

Minutes
Planning Commission Meeting
Town of Paonia, Colorado
June 14, 2023

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

The meeting is called to order at 4:00 PM.

Roll Call

Present:

Chair Knutson

Commissioner Bachran

Commissioner Clisset (via Zoom)

Commissioner Howe

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Bachran makes a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Howe.

The motion carries unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

None

Actions & Presentations

- 1) Update and Discussion of key issues from Community Engagement Session - Phoenix Rising Resources (Marissa Mommaerts, Molly Wheelock, Calla Rose Ostrander)

Affordable Housing is Urgent

There is widespread agreement that affordable housing is a top priority, but community members have different views on how to achieve it. The Planning Commission plans to guide discussions toward practical solutions using structured tools and educational materials.

Housing Discussions Need Focus

The Commission aims to move away from general brainstorming. Instead, discussions will focus on key issues and outline specific first steps toward solutions.

Smarter Use of Space in Town

Downtown businesses are limited by parking requirements. The Commission is exploring shared parking, relaxing parking regulations, and introducing temporary solutions like gravel lots or shuttle services.

Make the Town Easier to Walk and Bike

To encourage walkability and biking, the town may invest in sidewalks, bike-share programs, safer routes to schools, and improved lighting.

Water Limits Growth

Water availability is a major concern, especially related to obligations tied to the Arch Coal site. Conservation strategies are being considered, and water infrastructure will be integrated into future town planning.

Out-of-Town Residents Want a Voice

Residents who live outside town but use town services want representation. While they cannot vote under current rules, options such as advisory roles are being explored.

Better Emergency Planning Needed

There is a lack of coordination with emergency services. A formal working group will be formed to improve communication and readiness, especially regarding fire safety.

All Planning Documents Should Be Connected

The Housing Action Plan, parks, trails, and other planning efforts will be linked together in a unified plan. A clear and concise executive summary will also be created.

Find Affordable, Practical Solutions

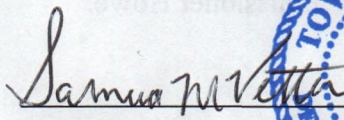
The Commission supports realistic, community-led steps instead of large, expensive projects. New funding ideas like user fees (e.g., sidewalk dining) are being considered.

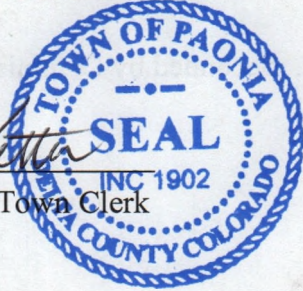
Clear Direction is Needed for the Future

A detailed land use plan will guide where housing, business, and public spaces can grow, ensuring they are supported by infrastructure like water and sewer systems.

Adjournment

Meeting is adjourned at 5:42 PM.


Samira M. Vetter, Town Clerk



Dave Knutson, Chair