

Town of Paonia
214 Grand Avenue
Wednesday, July 5, 2023 4:00 PM
Planning Commission Minutes

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Chair Knutson calls the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Roll Call

Present:

Chair Dave Knutson
Commissioner Mary Bachran
Commissioner Steve Clisset

Absent:

Commissioner Lyn Howe

Actions & Presentations

Other Items

Update from Phoenix Rising on Master Planning Process - (Marissa Mommaerts, Calla Rose Ostrander)

Calla Rose Ostrander shared that Marissa would be temporarily stepping back from project management responsibilities due to pregnancy-related hospitalization, and Calla Rose would be assuming that role during her absence.

The team synthesized community feedback from recent public engagement sessions into vision statements and actionable priorities, which will be included in full in the plan to reflect broad input, with the draft Master Plan on track for delivery by July 31, 2023.

Commissioner Bachran makes a motion that the Planning Commission have their next meeting on August 16th. Seconded by Commissioner Clisset.

The motion carries unanimously.

- Timeline presented:
 - **August 16, 2023:** Planning Commission will meet to review and discuss the draft.
 - **September 12, 2023:** Trustees to approve Planning Commission's first round of revisions.
 - **October 2023:** Public comment will be solicited (not a formal hearing).
 - **November 17, 2023:** Final draft incorporating public feedback due back to the Commission.
 - **February 2024:** Final version to be submitted for approval at the Planning Commission meeting.

The Commission discussed public hearings, noting that while a second formal hearing is not currently budgeted, it may be reconsidered if needed, and emphasized the importance of maintaining meaningful public engagement throughout the process.

Marissa Mommaerts presented the structural outline of the Master Plan, which includes sections on history, governance, parks and recreation, economic development, water and infrastructure, risks and emergency preparedness, growth framework, and an action plan; the initial draft will be text-only with visuals and maps to be added later, and housing and water-related content will be referenced or included as appendices, potentially including a separate

technical appendix on the town’s water systems.

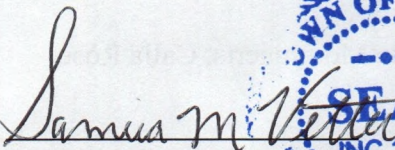
Commissioners were asked to identify near- and long-term priorities, including potential “quick wins” to build public momentum, while the Planning Commission is encouraged to serve as an accountability body for implementation, with tools such as citizen task forces and “Blue Ribbon” advisory panels under consideration.

During the economic development discussion, participants questioned the role of an Economic Development Officer and reflected on the dissolution of Paonia’s Chamber of Commerce, ultimately reaching consensus that while the position may not traditionally reside within town government, dedicated staff capacity for economic development is common in comparable towns and could offer significant benefits.

The Commission will receive the draft Master Plan by July 31, with individual comments due by August 16, and was asked to consider early implementation opportunities and potential supplemental content - such as expanded sections on zoning and water - pending available capacity and budget.

Adjournment

Chair Knutson adjourns the meeting at 5:00 PM.


Samira M. Vetter, Town Clerk



Dave Knutson, Chair