

West Scioto Area Commission Planning Committee

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 19, 2019

Location: Southeast Branch of the Columbus Metropolitan Library
3980 S. Hamilton Road, Gahanna, Ohio

Time: 7:00 - 8:45 p.m.

Members present:

Rita Cabral, Jo Leppert (Co-Chair), Robert Vance, Larry Weber (Chair)

Guests: Mark Harper, Ava Johnson, Lisa Schacht (Members of the Greater South East Area Commission)

Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Weber opened the meeting by distributing information on the Columbus Site Information Resource (CSIR) which includes a detailed and flexible map system. He asked the members to review it for discussion and tryout at the March meeting. He wanted the members to assess its value as a tool for land use planning. The website is <http://gis.columbus.gov/csir>.

Then the attention of the committee was turned to learning from our guests about their experience developing the now adopted South East Land Use Plan. Some of their key recommendations included:

- Solicit public input
- Work closely with and build relationships with city planning personnel and other city departments such as Recreation and Parks or Traffic Management.
- Build coalitions with neighboring area commissions, civic groups, HOA's, etc.
- Use the process to recommend different uses than what the city plans or envisions. For example, the GSEAC commission wanted more employment centers and commercial development for broad tracks of farm land that

the Planning Department designated for low density housing. The city's response in some cases was to modify its plan to allow for more commercial, office and industrial uses. Here and at other times during the meeting Ava and Lisa reinforced the importance of wrapping all recommendations with an explanation of how that recommendation will benefit the area.

- Push hard for connectivity. Example: multiuse paths inter-connecting developments, park spaces and shopping.

Chairman Weber asked the GSEAC guests a series of questions about their process of writing their Land Use Plan. The answer was that the city writes the plan and solicits input from the commission. However, the AC did need to formulate and vote on some specific language changes and additions to the city's draft in order to formalize the input (desires, opinions and suggestions) of the commission/community. They said the commission used a straight majority vote to approve/disapprove a specific written statement to be presented to the Planning Department.

The city did accommodate some of their input by modifying wording or adding annotations, possible exceptions or qualifications such as:

- "Wherever possible the city will take current adjacent usages into account."
- "Commercial development may be considered for this portion of the planning area if need is established through community input or other means ."
- "Sites that incorporate cluster development and varying unit types will be reviewed based on gross density. Densities higher than those shown on the Recommended Land use Map may be supported if a high level of architectural and site design is provided that includes a range of housing types, natural resources, preservation or parkland dedication (if supported by Recreation and Parks Dept.)."

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45