

**TOWN OF GARFIELD
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 09, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER: Phil Weagraff called the Planning Commission Meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

ROLL CALL: Tammy Howard, Kevin Pickron, Tami Southern, Damon Vassar, Phil Weagraff, and Planning Commission Secretary Annie Pillers. Absent: Andrew Flodin and Paul Hendrickson.

Chairman Weagraff opened the meeting for discussion. He referred to the comprehensive plan and it was discovered the rest of the planning commission had not received copies of the 2005 Comprehensive Plan in a previous email. Annie Pillers agreed to email a complete copy to each member at the close of the meeting. Copies were made available for the meeting.

Quality of Life

The commission talked about the quality of life in town. It was agreed appearances play into this. The commission did not want the town to look junky. Items included:

- safe sidewalks that are not overgrown or broken down and that are especially easy to use with a stroller
- homes that are kept up, lawns mowed, weeds kept to a minimum
- trees on sidewalks, light posts.

Phil talked about an Arbor Day grant the school received to plant 70 trees along the creek on the east side of town

Positives In Town

Positives included:

- Christmas decorations coming into town
- Downtown is a positive, the buildings look attractive

It was noted many folks are not aware of Garfield's charming downtown as they drive through on the highway and never stop. It was agreed the town needed away to get people to drive into the downtown area.

- New businesses such as Restaurant, Once In Awhile
- Pool
- Park and Picnic Facility; good recreational options for kids and younger folks

Needs in Town

- Artwork/Building Murals, consider using local artists, also provides economic development.
- Grocery Store
- Pharmacy. Tammy Howard reported with the remodel of the clinic, there will be a small pharmacy coming to town, no gifts/cards.
- Siding on buildings
- Use of Cactus Building
- Businesses that employ several folks, not just 2 or 3. Light manufacturing was suggested.
- Broader Broad Band
- Cell Tower
- Daycare
- Bakery/Esspresso
- Recreational opportunities for adults. Suggestions included tennis court, bike path.
- Skateboard Park

-Tourism

Phil asked how much land the town owned and if there was a place for tennis courts or other recreation. Annie Pillers agreed to check into this.

What Can Planning Commission Do

Phil asked what the Planning Commission could do to address some of these things to make things better. Items discussed:

Thank You Cards/Cards of Appreciation

Advertise for a small manufacturing business

Approach Cactus building owners

Work with the Garfield Public Development Authority (PDA)

Work with Whitman Rural Development (WRD)

Community Survey of town's wishes, interest level

Grants in conjunction with other community organizations

Consider Horizons Community Development Program – established framework

Update Comprehensive Plan

What Can You Individually Do

Phil asked the commission what they felt their individual role could be in this particular discussion. Phil said he couldn't answer that question yet, but asked each commission member to think about it. He suggested the commission consider meeting more frequently and suggested an hour once a month or for a longer time period every other month. The commission agreed meeting monthly would be a good.

Tammy Howard asked about the proposed fire station. Annie confirmed the location proposed was on the north end of town, next to Donna Gwinn's, but no funding was yet available. Phil asked about the use of the building if the fire station moved out.

The commission talked about attending other local community organization meetings such as the PDA or WRD. Kevin Pickron agreed that he would attend the next PDA meeting scheduled. It was thought the next WRD meeting would be Tuesday, January 5, 2010, if they followed the prior meeting schedule.

Handouts: 2005 Town of Garfield Comprehensive Plan

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Kevin Pickron **MOVED** to approve the Planning Commission Minutes of November 18, 2008. Tammy Howard seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, January 6, 2010, 7:00 PM, Garfield Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Weagraff adjourned the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

APPROVED:

Phil Weagraff, Chairman

ATTEST:

Annie Pillers, Clerk/Treasurer