

Planning Board and Zoning Commission

City Hall Council Chambers at 5:30 PM on May 8, 2024

Virtual attendance: 5; In-person attendance: 9

1. Call to Order – 5:30 PM
2. Roll Call
 - a. Bloomer chaired the meeting
 - b. G. Jones present and Fadness present virtually
 - c. Westwood and Olson absent; all others present

Bloomer, Chair	DiBenedetto, Vice Chair	Whistler	Foisy
Critelli	Olson (Absent)	Conlee	

3. Minutes

The Board reviewed the draft minutes from the April 24, 2024, meeting and noted one minor edit/correction; Bloomer also noted follow up needed on Ordinance 917 from minutes but no edits from comment. Whistler moved to approve the minutes and Conlee seconded the motion. Bloomer, DiBenedetto, Whistler, Foisy, Critelli, Conlee voted in favor; Olson absent. Motion carried.

4. Communications from the Board

- a. Urban Renewal Agency Update
 - DiBenedetto: Discussed upcoming URA meeting
 - Bloomer: Bloomer/DiBenedetto to follow-up with the Board
- b. City Council Representative Update
 - Conlee: Discussion at City meeting on ROW abandonment between Lots 4/5 between 8th/9th street within Daly Avenue. Recommendation to consult with City attorney on if abandonment required per State Law based on it being wiped out and then re-built. Plan to meet next week.
- c. County Representative Update – No update, Olson not present for comment

5. New Business

a. Review: Draft Downtown Revitalization Plan

Bloomer: Requested status update from Hanson (Great West Engineering, GWE).

Hanson: Jim Jarvis contracted to complete the document, draft is content oriented and images, renderings, document cleanup to be provided once GWE has Board noting they are on the right track.

Bloomer: Requested from Jarvis what the takeaway from the evening should be based on the length of the document.

Jarvis (GWE): Takeaway is to cover main points, document contents, and background for a self-review where detailed feedback can be provided. Provide overview and ensure GWE is on correct path.

Presentation by Jarvis included basis of the plan, highlighted key points within the document, and shared additional information needed by GWE.

Discussion followed with each Board Member providing comment, mostly general comments on positives or timeline. Whistler questioned if focus groups have had input yet; Jarvis stated nothing formal like the PB meeting but anticipates 3-4 meetings including City Council, Chamber of Commerce for feedback. Conlee stated realtors and property management companies should be involved; also expressed concern that focus of plan includes Broadway, Hauser, and Platt, with Platt being primarily residential. Critelli wants plan to keep sight of schools, medical facilities, airport, and first responders; wants plan to focus on things that do not work and not focus on things that do currently work, Bloomer agreed.

Discussion ensued regarding path forward to complete plan by July/August timeframe; Board concerned that focus groups and community have not been involved to this point. Jarvis to use May and June to complete public outreach and present revised draft at July meeting. Bloomer noted that document is important and should not be rushed and extension should be requested if necessary.

6. Old Business

a. Discussion: Beartooth Front Community Forum

DiBenedetto: Reduced the number of topics in the forum to 6.

Discussion followed on if there were any questions to the revised agenda, advertisement of the forum, and who will be handling closeout of the forum with Grebenc (GWE) leaving early.

b. Discussion: Growth Policy Update

Hanson (GWE): Deliver draft at May 22, 2024 meeting. Jerry Grebenc and Kevin Angland are completing the document, with Hanson being point of contact. GWE will try to incorporate input from Community Forum on May 11, 2024 but time may not allow all input to be included by the time the draft is due on the 22nd.



7. Written Correspondence

a. Staff Communications and Updates

G. Jones/Fadness: Timberline Townhomes CUP. Conduct completeness review and present to Board at a June meeting.

b. Petitions and communications from the audience

Tom Kuntz – Red Lodge Business Alliance: Discussed the importance of input from groups and community up front to drive the plan; draft of plan seems to focus on old items and not new path forward; wants to keep the focus of the plan downtown to keep the core of the City there and not pulled away; minimal development in downtown outside of renovations since 2006; plan should focus on future of downtown; noted COVID extended the summer season by a couple of months which has doubled a lot of residents income; would be disservice to the City for planning board to review and edit the plan at this stage. Kuntz provided this petition-communication during meeting item 5.a. at the request of Bloomer.

8. Other Business

Next meeting will be May 22, 2024.

The Beartooth Front Community Forum is May 11, 2024.

9. Adjourned @ 7:22 p.m.