

League of Women Voters of Pullman Observer Report

Name of Agency: Whitman County Planning Commission

Date: Nov 3, 2021

Observer Reporting: Shelley Chambers Fox

Length of Meeting: 2 hrs

Members Present: Chad Whetzel, Weston Kane, Brian Davies, Keith Paulson, Russ Jamison, Dave Gibney. Staff: Alan Thomson, Whitman County Planner; Grace Di Biase, Whitman County Assistant Planner; Mark Storey, Whitman County Director/Engineer; Brandon Johnson, Public Works, Elinor Notetaker)

Absent: Matt Webb, Erina Hammer, Fred Wexler

Others Present (i.e., media, public): Debbie Snell (Port of Whitman), Karen Hinnenkemp, Ken Duft, Gerianne Buckley, Ashley.

Reports:

- a. There were no administrative reports this month.

Old business: Continue updating of the Whitman County Comprehensive Plan. The current Whitman County Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1978. It is available at [Comprehensive Plan | Whitman County, WA](#). The proposal is to go through the Plan line by line, chapter by chapter. In the next 2 months the Commission will start reviewing, answering questions and discussing the plan at each meeting. This may require meeting the first and third Wednesday of the month. Chapter 1, the introduction, will be reviewed last since they will have a better picture of what the introduction should look like at the end of the process.

1. The County Commissioners have weighed in on the **Railbanking** section, one would like to take out what Art Swannack added. Alan would like to know whether the Planning Commission would like to change it. Dave Gibney is happy with all 3 paragraphs. Chad and Russ would like to leave it as is for now and let the county commissioners change it how they would like it. The commissioners decided to leave it as is for now.
2. **Transportation Chapter**
 - a. Mark Storey has made some edits to correct the **highway names** and numbers on page 33.
 - b. Language was added last month to page 34 to note the importance of the **Snake and Columbia river dams** to continuing barge transportation.
 - c. The list of **parks** on page 36 was edited to exclude the Chipman trail since it is not a park.
 - d. **GISMO** stands for GIS (geographic information system) based mobility was added to page 39 description of transportation metrics.
 - e. **Complete street by federal definition** includes transportation lanes for cars, buses, bikes and pedestrians. The county will not try to make all roads ‘complete streets’ because in many places in the unincorporated county, it does not make sense.
 - f. There was considerable discussion of the goal ‘maintain **access to all major county road facilities in all weather conditions.**’ It was agreed that there should be no additional phrase to qualify this goal.
 - g. **State route 270** is the only route that is both a commercial and a commuter route. In that sense it is different from other county roads which are designated for transportation to properties within the county. Alan and mark will craft language to better articulate the difference between these types of roads.
 - h. It was clarified that the **County/Pullman tax sharing agreement** is described elsewhere in the document.
 - i. Pullman actually owns the **Pullman Moscow Airport** but it is operated by a consortium that includes both cities.
3. Chapter 4 **Parks and Recreation**
 - a. Commissioners agreed on the purpose section after a few edits.
 - b. The narrative section was edited for clarity. It was agreed that more information was needed to clarify the activities operated by the county (see page 52).

c. The next meeting will start on page 53.

Public Meetings of interest to League

1. The Pullman Planning Commission will continue to discuss the draft of its Comprehensive Plan on Wednesday, **November 17, 2021**. The draft of the Comprehensive Plan can be found at [Comprehensive Plan | Whitman County, WA](#) The details on remote participation can be found at the Whitman County Planning Commission website.

Process & Protocol: *Did the members appear to have done their “homework”?* Yes. *Were members courteous to each other and the public?* Yes. *Was access to materials for certain agenda items available to you?* Yes, the most recent copy of the Comprehensive Plan, agenda and supporting materials were sent via email.

Next meeting: November 17, 2021