

Springfield Planning Commission
Committee for Citizen Involvement
Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Committee for Citizen Involvement: Commissioner Sherwood, Kuri Gill, Grace Bergen, Tim Vohs, Andrew Landen, Michael Koivula. Absent: Commissioner Sophie McGinley

Staff: Sandy Belson, Comprehensive Planning Manager; Brenda Jones, Planning Commission Assistant; Kristina Kraaz, Assistant City Attorney; Mark Rust, Senior Planner; Molly Markarian, Senior Planner; Monica Sather, Senior Planner; Melissa Carino, Senior Planner; Loralyn Spiro, Lead Communication Coordinator.

Audience: Greg James, Springfield Resident

Chair Sherwood: One adjustment to the agenda, the Examples of Outreach in Eugene during COVID, will be moved to a future date.

Item 1: General Public Comment

Greg James asked to speak to the CCI. He wanted to congratulate Commissioner Troy Sherwood for a great 4 years of service to the Planning Commission. He also appreciates Commissioner Vohs for his 8 years of service and thanked him for his service.

Item 2: Using SpringfieldOregonSpeaks

Sandy explained that since the public meetings have gone to on-line format, staff started exploring various tools that would facilitate citizen involvement in planning projects and meetings. Staff identified People Speaks as a platform designed as a public/private partnership by planners and software engineers to meet the needs of Planning Commission and other city committees. Use of SpringfieldOregonSpeaks will facilitate the opportunity for the public to participate outside the traditional single-evening timeframe.

Sandy provided an overview of SpringfieldOregonSpeaks. Commissioners who had a chance to fully explore the site liked what they saw and thought it would be useful to the general public. Commissioners asked the following questions for which staff will find out the answers: 1. How long meetings would be archived on the platform? 2. Can there be links to past meetings on the same agenda topic? 3. How does the voting work? In particular, there should be no "Pre-voting".

Item 3: Wetland Riparian Corridors Explained: What are they, and why do they matter?

Monica is interested in using this opportunity to test the SpringfieldOregonSpeaks platform by providing an overview of what wetlands and riparian corridors are and what they offer. From there, staff would like to hear from the CCI about these two items: 1. Identify the functions of wetlands and riparian corridors that appear relevant to the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) expansion areas; 2. Sharing examples of favorite places with water resources (such as wetlands and riparian corridors) and why these places are considered CCI Members' favorites.

Some of the comments from the CCI were that they loved the accessibility of the packet through SpringfieldOregonSpeaks and how easy the video was to load and view.

As Monica went into the packet, the Commissioners had additional questions regarding the Wetlands and Riparian areas in Springfield: 1. Are there plans to do anything on the Mill Race from 28th Street through those areas with the Auto wrecking yards? Monica will need to get back to Commissioner Koivula with an answer.

The CCI had a great conversation on “What is the CCI’s favorite wetland and/or Riparian area”.

Commissioners shared updates on past Council meetings and requested that this be a regular item on future CCI meetings as it is during regular Planning Commission meetings.

Adjournment: 7:15 p.m.

Recorded by: Brenda Jones