

Meeting Notes for Town Board &
 Planning & Zoning Committee 8 February 2006
 7:00 p.m., Town Hall

In attendance:

Town Board Members	Planning and Zoning Committee Members
Alex Miller Tony Spano Ron Santosky Francis Gray	Bev Schoonmaker, Chris Kelder, Dan Davis ,Bill DeGraw, Mike Baden Donna Ragonese, Ruth Bendelius, Bev Schoonmaker, Marijane Knudson Gordie Bell, Kristin Marcell, Walter Levy
Consultants	
Peter Fairweather	

In the absence of Supervisor Duke, Ron Santosky opened the meeting and led us in the Pledge.

Walter Levy, co-chair of the committee, welcomed new PZC members: John Dawson, Kristen Marcell, Gordy Bell, Len Bernardo and Chris Kelder.

Levy announced the Task Force for Updating the Planning and Zoning Code. Members of the group includes: Mike Baden, Steve Fornal, Bill DeGraw, Bev Schoonmaker, Brenda Striano, and Susan Blickstein. Peter Fairweather explained that this Task Force will first focus on administrative clean-up of the existing codes.

Fairweather suggested that the PCZ begin by carefully reviewing Town of Rochester goals as they presently exist. He explained that updating the Comprehensive Plan preserves and improves the Town’s institutional memory, guarding the past but aiding new development over long periods of time in which their will be new supervisors and council members. TOR should plan for the present and the future, he said. Fairweather based his discussion on a chart comparing the goals listed in the 1969 Comprehensive Plan, the 1990 Draft Comprehensive Plan (never adopted), and Imagine Rochester 2005. Fairweather pointed out that the goals are remarkably similar and that this is a benefit because it demonstrates a relatively constant strategic point of view. Fairweather’s chart comparing goals is listed on his website which you can find by going to the TOR website (townofrochester.net) and clicking on Comprehensive Plan, look for Compilation of Existing Planning goals.

Among the goals that have remained important to the town are: residential growth, commercial growth, protecting water, land use, protecting natural resources, forested open, space, wildlife, agriculture, and maintaining the rural character of the town. Fairweather also provided the basis for writing planning scenarios which will ask for discussion of such issues as administrative clean-up, new possibilities, new restrictions potential benefits and costs..

It was agreed that it is important to integrate the work of the ECC into updating process. Regarding water resources, Dan Davis explained the Steve Winkley was currently conducting a ground water protection survey. Though the survey will not be completed until July 2006, parts of it will be available as we go through the up process. This survey will be important for updating the Planning Codes. Besides water issues, ECC will report back on other issues including mapping soils, lighting, noise, trash, and environmental safety.

A Schedule for Public Outreach Meetings will be made at the next meeting, February 22, 2006. It is expected that such meetings will begin in April and stretch over the summer and into fall. There will be a minimum of four meetings, one at each polling location (the Fire House in Accord, the Firehouse in Alligerville, the Rochester #2 Fire House and the Municipal Court House. The four basic outreach meetings will each cover the same material. Anyone can attend these meetings regardless of where they vote. It was also pointed out that meeting of the PZC are open to the public

It was also agreed that PZC will attempt to meet with such groups as farmers, owners of businesses, large landowners, and second home owners. Other groups will be identified. Finalizing a schedule and a format for outreach meetings will be worked out when the PZC has completed the initial stages of the revision.

For the next meeting, scheduled for February 22, 2006, the PZC has been asked to review the goals on the Fairweather's Compilation of Existing Planning Goals and then to make suggestions for new goals or revising existing goals. For example, the 1969 Comprehensive Plan does not directly address goals for environmental protection. This information will be important for writing various Plan scenarios.

Public discussion was concerned with communication of meeting schedule and locations. The PZC responded by agreeing to make every effort to provide ample notice for meetings.

Note taker Tony Sindone