

**EAST GRAND FORKS
REGULAR
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
Thursday, February 8, 2018 – 12:00 Noon
East Grand Forks City Council Chambers**

CALL TO ORDER

President Powers, called the February 8, 2018 meeting of the East Grand Forks Planning Commission to order at 12:12 p.m.

CALL OF ROLL

On a Call of Roll the following members were present: President Mike Powers, Commissioners Marc DeMers, Kevin Marcott and Randy Boushey.

Absent: Chad Erickson, Charles Gordon and Gary Christianson

Guest(s) present: Earl Haugen, MPO Executive Director

Staff present: Nancy Ellis, East Grand Forks City Planner; Brenda Ault, Executive Assistant and Ron Galstad, City Attorney.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

A quorum was present.

COMMUNICATION

Cell Tower Study Consultant Hired and Possible Draft Study

CP Ellis informed the Commissioners that Garrett Lysiak, All Engineering, has been hired to do the cell tower study. He has completed the work and submitted the draft; they had a conference call that morning and he is going to provide more detail and clarification. It will go to the City Council work session on February 27th and he will attend that meeting. CA Galstad suggested inviting the public so that they could ask Mr. Lysiak questions about the study.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE November 11, 2017 REGULAR MEETING

A Motion was made by Commissioner Demers, Seconded by Commissioner Boushey to approve the minutes from the November 11, 2017, Regular Meeting. M/S/P- Demers, Boushey; 4-0, mc.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Matter of Discussion on the 2045 Transportation Plan Update (2018 Street and Highway Element):

CP Ellis stated that this was an introduction of process to amend the East Grand Forks Comprehensive Plan to include the Grand Forks-East Grand Forks 2045 Transportation Plan Update (2018 Street/Highway Element) together with all maps, information, recommendations and data. She further states that the Street/Highway Modes is an element of the Long Range Transportation Plan that is updated every 5 years. It was last updated in 2013, with a few amendments since then.

The Transportation bill "Fixing America's Surface Transportation" (FAST), which called for performance measures and targets to be set for all modes of transportation. To be in compliance with the FAST, the MPO needs to update the goals and objectives to give more prominence to the performance measures. The MPO will also update financial information to reflect the changes in funding. Staff from both Federal Highway Divisions, both State Departments of Transportation, both Counties and both Cities will be involved in the update for the Street/Highways Element. The EGF Planning and Zoning Commission is one of the many local bodies that will be engaged throughout the process.

This will be a 12 month process that will require periodic updates and engagement activities. CP Ellis then invited MPO Executive Director Haugen to address the Commissioners.

MPO Haugen thanked the group and stated a few things had changed since the last presentation; the Existing Goals and Performance measures had changed, with two items being added.

1. Economic Vitality
2. Security
3. Accessibility and Mobility
4. Environmental/Energy/Quality of Life
5. Integration and Connectivity
6. Efficient System Management
7. System Preservation
8. Safety
9. Resiliency
10. Tourism

The current plan added Toward Zero Deaths a National Strategy on Highway Safety. Some things to consider on the Toward Zero Short term vs. Long term;

- 1) Number of Traffic fatalities
- 2) Number of fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled
- 3) Number of crash-related serious injuries

- 4) Number of serious injuries per 100 million vehicle miles traveled
- 5) Number of non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries

MPO Haugen stated that several surveys were done and one of the big factors the public would like addressed is future river crossings. Discussion has been held at both the Grand Forks and East Grand Forks Council meetings. By 2045, traffic will have surpassed the capacity of the current 3 bridges.

Future River crossings considered are 17th Ave S, 24th Ave S, 32nd Ave S, 47th Ave S and Merrifield. The 17th Ave location was eliminated at the last MPO meeting. Some things to consider are:

1. Seek relief of local traffic
2. Use 2045 Model to forecast how each new river crossing impacts the rest of the street network performance of existing bridges, near south neighborhood, south Washington St and the Point area of EGF
3. Compare how each performs vs. the others
4. Determine if it can be narrowed down for more focuses analysis.

CA Murphy left the meeting at 1:43 p.m.

MPO Haugen gave an example of this: What if we had a 32nd Ave Bridge? How would it impact traffic on I29. The 2040 forecast will be updated to reflect 2045 and focus on Point Bridge corridors. He stated that one or two options need to be weeded out by early March.

OTHER BUSINESS

CP Ellis stated that she had one item to discuss, which were proposed changes to the Uses Permitted in the Downtown Commercial district, Highway Commercial, Light Industry and General Industrial for the purposes to update our ordinances.

Some things that will be considered:

Highway Commercial: Photography studios, Health clubs, gyms, museums, art galleries, churches, synagogues and similar places of worship, small cell antennas within the right of way, parcel delivery store or station and contractor shops and offices.

Downtown Commercial: Photography studios, Health clubs, gyms, museums, art galleries, churches, synagogues and similar places of worship, small cell antennas within the right of way

Light Industry: Bottling establishment, brewery or winery, small animal boarding and daycare facilities

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General Industrial: Indoor shooting gallery and ranges, auction houses; which would require a special permit.

These will all be brought forward next month and are all items added to the Grand Forks City Code, which will be an update to allow the same things in East Grand Forks.

ADJOURNMENT

A Motion was made by Commissioner Marcott to adjourn. Chairman Mike Powers adjourned the meeting at 1:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Brenda Ault
Executive Assistant