



City of Dublin Planning and Zoning Commission

Planning Report

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Community Plan Amendment

Case Summary

Agenda Item	2
Case Number	12-046ADM
Request	Administrative review and recommendation to City Council of proposed amendments to the 2007 Community Plan.
Case Manager	Justin Goodwin, AICP, Planner II (614) 410-4677 jgoodwin@dublin.oh.us
Planning Recommendation	<i>Review and Recommendation to City Council</i> Planning requests review and recommendation of approval to City Council of amendments to the Community Plan.

Summary	Amendments
Introduction	<p>Planning provided a comprehensive review of proposed amendments to the Community Plan at the April 11, 2013 Planning and Zoning Commission meeting. Planning used the Community Plan website to show proposed text revisions in a 'tracked changes' format and interactive maps to review area plans and other geographic information. Based on Commission feedback, the request for recommendation to City Council was postponed to allow for further revisions to the Plan.</p> <p>Planning is continuing the formatting for the Community Plan website's final, adopted appearance for presentation to City Council. Commission members are encouraged to visit the Community Plan website at http://communityplan.dublinohiousa.gov to review progress and to get a feel for how the Plan will look and function.</p> <p>Text revisions are no longer shown in a tracked changes format, and Planning has begun applying consistent formatting styles. Previous versions of tracked changes may be downloaded for review on the website in PDF format. Planning has also placed a large number of photographs, conceptual images and other supplemental graphics throughout the website pages to add visual interest and illustrate the information described in text. The bulk of this effort is now complete, although Planning will continue to finalize formatting and image placement as the Plan proceeds to Council for adoption. No substantive text revisions or additions to content are anticipated should the Commission make its recommendation to Council for adoption.</p> <p>A new 'front page' has also been drafted for the website, including a prominent link called 'What is the Community Plan?' This section provides a detailed explanation of what the Plan is (and what it is not), and how the Plan relates to other development documents such as the Zoning Code and Capital Improvements Program. As the Plan progresses to adoption, a link called 'How to Use the Plan' will also be added to help orient visitors to the Plan's content and web-based structure.</p>
New Content Amendments	<p>At the April 11 meeting, Commission members favored the proposed revisions and provided suggestions for additional content. Specifically, Commissioners felt the Plan should more directly address the concept of sustainability and more thoroughly consider the potential for future public transit service. Also during this meeting, Planning noted that the Bikeway Plan map was still under construction. Commission members expressed an interest in reviewing this element when complete. Planning has addressed each of these items, as described below.</p> <p><u>Sustainability</u></p> <p>The 'Building Blocks' section in the Foundations Chapter outlines major planning issues and critical visioning elements of the Community Plan. This section now includes a brief discussion of Sustainability and the importance of this concept to Dublin and the Community Plan. In addition, various elements of the Community Plan already address sustainability concepts, and thus support the addition of this 'building block.' As an example, Objective 2, Strategy E in the Community</p>

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	<p>Character Chapter encourages 'green' building practices such as the use of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) construction standards. Similar sustainability-oriented objectives are located throughout the Plan.</p> <p><u>Public Transportation</u> The previous version of the Public Transportation section in the Transportation Chapter focused almost exclusively on the COTA bus routes serving Dublin today and the specific planned routes that have been designated in COTA's Long Range Transit Plan. Less attention was paid to the possibility of future alternative forms of public transit . However, the 2011 Economic Advancement Zone Plan (now being incorporated into the Community Plan as the West Innovation District Area Plan), included a section on various types of public transit and how each mode could eventually be accommodated in Dublin. This information is now integrated directly into the Transportation Chapter and generalized within the context of the entire city. The transit section of the West Innovation District Plan is now simplified to eliminate redundancy, with a reference to the Transportation Chapter.</p> <p><u>Bikeway Plan</u> Planning has worked with other City departments to depict a comprehensive long range bicycle system in the Community Plan's Bikeway Plan. The map now includes all existing multi-use paths and other bike routes within the city, along with near term (programmed) path connections, and longer term connections based on either the Thoroughfare Plan, Special Area Plans, or staff knowledge of other potential improvements. As currently drafted, the bikeway plan does not differentiate between specific types of future bicycle facilities (<i>e.g.</i> multi-use path, bike lane, sharrow, cycletrack, <i>etc.</i>). Additional long-term bikeway planning will be proceeding this year and may result in subsequent refinements or adjustments to the information presented in the Community Plan. Planning will keep the Commission informed as these efforts proceed.</p>
Adoption and Maintenance Policy	<p>Commission members have requested information about the process for adopting a web-based Community Plan and subsequently maintaining it. Planning provided a memo to City Council in April proposing a framework for an adoption and maintenance policy, based on discussions with the Law Director. A copy of the memo is attached to this report and Jennifer Readler will provide an overview at the Commission meeting.</p>

Recommendation	
Approval to City Council	<p>The proposed Community Plan amendments address major planning initiatives, changes and trends that have occurred within Dublin over the past 5 years and incorporate new content recommended by the Commission. The new web-based format will enhance the Plan's accessibility and interest. It will allow the City to ensure the Plan remains updated on a more regular basis, while providing cost savings. Planning requests that the Planning and Zoning Commission recommend approval to City Council of the updated Dublin Community Plan.</p>