

ADMINISTRATION OF THE PLAN

Introduction:

Planning is a process. Because conditions change, the planning process should remain dynamic. Oregon's statewide planning program addresses this need in two ways: First, a post acknowledgement review process exists to assure that local amendments to a state acknowledged plan or implementing ordinance comply with the statewide planning goals; second, a periodic review program mandates the maintenance of local comprehensive plans. Cities must submit their plans every four to seven years to the state, who in turn reviews the plans for consistency and compliance with new rules and statutes.

In addition to state requirements, local jurisdictions should have a well defined review and amendment process. That process should attempt to strike a balance between changing circumstances and the need to provide certainty in the rules. This section presents such a process.

There are two types of comprehensive plan changes, text and map.

Text Amendments

Changes to the text of the plan shall be considered legislative acts and processed accordingly. These include conclusions, data, goals and policies, or any other portion of the plan that involves the written word.

Map Amendments¹

There are three official maps within this plan. They are (1) the General Land Use Plan Map (commonly called the "Comp Plan Map"), (2) the Yaquina Bay Estuary and Shorelands Map (page 272), and (3) the Ocean Shorelands Map (page 50).

¹ Map Amendments Section amended by Ordinance No. 1868 (February 17, 2004).

Three types of amendments are possible to each of these maps. The first involves wide areas of the map and many different properties, and these are considered major, legislative changes (see the urbanization section on page 273 for definitions). The second usually involves small areas and affects only a few pieces of property. These amendments are considered minor (again, see the urbanization section for definitions), and are quasi-judicial in nature. The third amendment is an amendment based on a demonstrated error in a map designation of a property or the establishment of boundaries on one of the maps. Errors may include, but are not limited to cartographic mistakes, scrivener's errors in a description of a designation or boundary, incorrect map designations of property based on an erroneous assumption of property ownership, the need to reconcile conflicts between a comprehensive plan map designation and a zoning map designation of a property, or the need to adjust comprehensive plan designations or boundaries based on the correction of errors in the Urban Growth Boundary under the Newport Comprehensive Plan process for resolution of errors in the Urban Growth Boundary.

Major, minor, and error amendments to any of the three maps shall be processed consistent with the procedure established in 2-6-1/"Procedural Requirements" of the Zoning Ordinance (No. 1308, as amended). Major, minor, and error amendments to the maps shall be accompanied by findings addressing the following:

A. Major Amendments:

- 1.) A significant change in one or more goal or policy; and
- 2.) A demonstrated need for the change to accommodate unpredicted population trends, to satisfy urban housing needs, or to assure adequate employment opportunities; and
- 3.) The orderly and economic provision of key public facilities; and
- 4.) Environmental, energy, economic, and social consequences; and
- 5.) The compatibility of the proposed change with the community; and
- 6.) All applicable Statewide Planning Goals.

B. Minor Amendments:

- 1.) A change in one or more goal or policy; and
- 2.) A demonstrated need to accommodate unpredicted population trends, housing needs, employment needs or change in community attitudes; and
- 3.) The orderly and economic provision of key public facilities; and
- 4.) The ability to serve the subject property(s) with city services without an undue burden on the general population; and
- 5.) The compatibility of the proposed change with the surrounding neighborhood and the community.

C. Error Amendments:

- 1.) An error was made in the establishment of a map designation or boundary; and,
- 2.) The correction of the error by the amendment of a map designation or boundary is necessary to resolve an issue created by the error.

Initiation:

A comprehensive plan text revision may be initiated by the Newport City Council, the Newport Planning Commission, the owner (or his/her authorized representative) of any property included in the urban growth boundary, or any resident. Changes proposed by a property owner or resident shall be initiated by the filing of an application for such change. The application shall be on a form prescribed by the City of Newport. Accompanying the application shall be a fee. The City Council shall from time to time set, by resolution, the fees for comprehensive plan changes.

All modifications initiated by a motion of the City Council or an application from a property owner or resident shall be forwarded

to the Planning Commission for review and recommendation, who shall review the request and send a recommendation back to the City Council.

Hearings and Notification:

All changes shall be considered by the Planning Commission and City Council at public hearings. Notices and other procedural requirements shall be made in accordance with Section 2-6-1 of the Zoning Ordinance.

The City Council shall hear the matter at a regularly scheduled meeting. If the Council approves the request, they shall pass an ordinance reflecting the change. Denial may be made upon a motion duly seconded and passed by a majority of the Council voting.

Findings of Fact:

All requests for amendments to the data, text, inventories, graphics, conclusions, goals and policies, or implementation strategies shall be accompanied by findings that address the following:

A. Data, Text, Inventories or Graphics:

- 1.) New or updated information.

B. Conclusions:

- 1.) A change or addition to the data, text, inventories, or graphics which significantly affects a conclusion that is drawn for that information.

C. Goals and Policies:

- 1.) A significant change in one or more conclusion; or
- 2.) A public need for the change; or
- 3.) A significant change in community attitudes or priorities; or

- 4.) A demonstrated conflict with another plan goal or policy that has a higher priority; or
- 5.) A change in a statute or statewide agency plan; and
- 6.) All the Statewide Planning Goals.

D. Implementation Strategies:

- 1.) A change in one or more goal or policy; or
- 2.) A new or better strategy that will result in better accomplishment of the goal or policy; or
- 3.) A demonstrated ineffectiveness of the existing implementation strategy; or
- 4.) A change in the statute or state agency plan; or
- 5.) A fiscal reason that prohibits implementation of the strategy.

Interpretations:

It may become necessary from time to time to interpret the meaning of a word or phrase or the boundaries of a map. Whenever such an interpretation involves the use of factual, policy, or legal discretion, a public hearing before the Planning Commission consistent with the procedural requirements contained in Section 2-6-1 of the Zoning Ordinance (No. 1308, as amended) shall be held.

A ruling for an interpretation shall be approved only if findings are presented that comply with the following:

- > The interpretation does not change any conclusion, goal, policy, or implementation strategy.
- > The interpretation is based on sound planning, engineering, or legal principles.
- > The interpretation is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

Additional Map Information:

The official maps shall be identified by the City Council and shall be on file with the City of Newport's Department of Community Planning and Development. A correct and up-to-date original of each map shall be maintained by the planning department. Regardless of the existence of copies of the official maps that may be made or published, the official maps shall be the final authority for determining boundaries for various districts and features.

In the event that an official map becomes damaged, destroyed, lost, difficult to interpret, or outdated, the City Council shall, by ordinance, adopt a new official map, which shall supersede the old one. Adoption of a new official map shall be a legislative matter and shall be processed as such.

Where uncertainty exists as to the boundaries of districts shown on the official maps, the following rules shall apply:

- A. Boundaries indicated as approximately following the center line of streets, highways, or alleys shall be construed to follow such center lines.
- B. Boundaries indicated as approximately following platted lot lines shall be construed as following such lot lines.
- C. Boundaries indicated as approximately following city limits shall be construed as following city limits.
- D. Boundaries indicated as following shore lines shall be construed to follow the mean higher high water line of such shore lines. In the event of change in the shore line, the boundary shall be construed as moving with the actual shore line.
- E. Boundaries indicated as approximately following the center lines of streams, rivers, canals, lakes, or other bodies of water shall be construed to follow such center lines.

- F. Areas below the mean higher high water line or the line of non-aquatic vegetation, whichever is most landward in the estuarine area, shall be considered to be in the estuarine management unit rather than the adjacent shoreland zone.
- G. Boundaries indicated as parallel to or extensions of geographic features indicated in subsections 1 through 6, above, shall be so construed.
- H. Distances not specifically indicated on the official maps shall be determined by the scale of the map.

Citizen Involvement:

It is important to involve a cross section of the citizens of Newport in the development and execution of this Comprehensive Plan and its implementing ordinances. For this purpose, a process must be established to assure that citizen involvement is effective. This section is designed to outline such a procedure for the City of Newport.

The City of Newport contains a wide variety of people with many different interests. When developing new plan policies and implementing laws, it is vital to consider the various view of the community or neighborhood that will be affected by the proposal.

Timing is crucial. Too often citizens do not become involved in the planning process until a specific project is proposed. By then it is frequently more difficult to have an affect on the outcome of the project. This is compounded by the legal requirements of quasi-judicial hearings. The complicated criterion and procedural mandates are not "user friendly" and add to the frustration of persons not familiar with the process. As a result, citizens may feel that the planning does not work and they are left with a bad experience.

For developers, the perception is similar. Public hearings place an element of uncertainty in their projects. Sometimes seemingly arbitrary decisions are made, discouraging investment and innovation. Once again, planning is seen as an impediment, a necessary and expensive paper hoop that must be jumped through.

How then can a citizen involvement program be effective? For Newport, with a strong tradition of community pride and awareness, the answer lies in citizen participation in the planning of the community rather than the administration of the plan and ordinances. That means the emphasis should be placed in citizen participation in the legislative, rather than the quasi-judicial, aspect of the planning process.

When the emphasis for citizen involvement is shifted from the quasi-judicial to the legislative, the adversarial nature of the program is reduced. It is no longer the neighborhood versus the developer but a group of concerned citizens who want a well planned community. The accent is also changed from the strict, legal procedures to more informal fact finding. All voices are encouraged. People have the freedom to explore all the alternatives and consider them fully.

Once a neighborhood or community consensus can be built, ordinances can be formulated that offer clear direction for development. As long as a developer is willing to comply with the community goals, s/he can be assured that approval will be given. Innovation can be considered on a case-by-case basis and looked at in light of objective policy.

With this system, there is a unified approach to community development. This can save the general public and development community a great deal of time and money, not to mention frustration. Planning can then be a positive.

This is not to say that problems and conflicts will not arise. It would be foolish to assume that all community goals and policies will be without ambiguity and that all developers will voluntarily comply with those standards. But the point is to shift the priority away from the antagonistic view of planning and more to the cooperative.

GOALS/POLICIES/IMPLEMENTATION
FOR CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

Goal 1: To involve citizens in the development and implementation of the city's Comprehensive Plan and its implementing ordinances.

Policy 1: The city shall develop methods of community outreach that encourage participation in the planning process.

Implementation Measure #1: The Planning Commission shall serve as the official citizens' advisory committee to the City Council. Whenever a major change (as determined by the Commission) to the Comprehensive Plan or an implementing ordinance is under consideration, three persons from the community at large shall be designated by the Planning Commission as a Citizens' Advisory Committee.

Implementation Measure #2: The city may promote or assist neighborhood organizations to assist in decision making. When appropriate, the Planning Commission and/or City Council may hold meetings in neighborhoods affected by the issues under consideration.

Implementation Measure #3: If an important issue needs study, then the Planning Commission or the City Council may call for the formation of an ad hoc committee. The committee shall be appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. Effort shall be made to select persons from different sides of the issue.

Policy 2: The city will encourage the participation of citizens in the legislative rather the quasi-judicial stage of plan development and implementation.

Implementation Measure #1: The city will make reasonable attempts to contact and solicit input in the formulation of comprehensive plan elements and ordinance provisions. The city may use the neighborhood organizations to discuss specific proposals. The media will be used as much as possible to make citizens aware of city policy and actions.

Implementation Measure #2: The city will develop clear and objective standards by which to review development proposals. Those standards should be developed only

after a concerted effort by the city to involve citizens in the formulation process.

Implementation Measure #3: The city will rely on its staff to administer the plan and ordinances if clear and objective standards can be developed. If, however, administration of a plan or implementing ordinance provision involves a legal, factual, or policy decision, the decision shall be made by the Planning Commission and/or the City Council after adequate public notice to interested or affected persons.

Implementation Measure #4: The Planning Commission shall serve as the official Committee for Citizen Involvement (CCI). On matters of neighborhood or city-wide significance, the Planning Commission shall make an effort to solicit the input of citizens.