

**BLYTHEWOOD PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**THE MANOR**  
**100 ALVINA HAGOOD CIRCLE**  
**BLYTHEWOOD, SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2020**  
**6:00 PM**

MINUTES

**Members Present**

Rich McKenrick, Chair  
Malcolm Gordge, Vice Chair  
Derrek Pugh  
Ernestine Middleton  
Marcus Taylor

**Staff Present**

Brian Cook, Town Admin  
Saralyn Yarborough, Admin  
Melissa Cowan, Town Clerk

**Members Absent**

Ed Kesser  
Erica Page

I. **CALL TO ORDER AND DECLARATION OF A QUORUM**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rich McKenrick at 6:00 PM.

Five Commissioners were present, constituting a quorum.

A. **NOTIFICATION AND POSTING OF MEETING AGENDA**

Town Clerk confirmed the agenda was properly posted and the media notified.

B. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Malcolm Gordge made a Motion to approve the agenda. The Motion was seconded by Ernestine Middleton. **All in favor; 5-0**

C. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Rich McKenrick led the pledge of allegiance.

D. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Malcolm Gordge made a Motion to approve the minutes of November 2, 2020. The Motion was seconded by Marcus Taylor. **All in favor; 5-0**

II. **PRESENTATION**

A. GREGORY SPROUSE (CMGOG) – COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Mr. Brian Cook introduced Mr. Gregory Sprouse, Director of Research, Planning and Development at the CMCOG, to talk about their role in updating our Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Sprouse explained the CMCOG provides a forum for coordinating the Plans for the Central Midlands, and assists member governments with looking at their existing situation and to help define the needs and goals of the local community and how it wants to grow and develop. Using a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Sprouse

highlighted the individual elements that are mandated to be included in the Plan which must be reviewed every five years and formally updated every ten years.

The purpose of the Plan is to develop a strategy for a healthy and pleasant environment in which to live; balance growth and stability; reflects the economic potential of the Town; protects the Town's investments as far as practicable and regulates land use and development.

Mr. Sprouse advised that a new element under the heading of Resiliency has been added, so the community planning can evaluate risks due to natural disasters such as Covid or flooding and non-natural disasters like a train-wreck.

Mr. Gordge said that the Planning Commission wanted to include the views of local residents and businesses to obtain the best possible input for the update and asked if the CMCOG could assist with developing a survey/questionnaire to elicit public comment as early as possible. Mr. Sprouse confirmed this was possible and would welcome any suggestions for an outline which Mr. Gordge confirmed was in the process of being drawn-up.

To further facilitate the public involvement, Mr. Gordge suggested that the Town organize a Community Planning day to coincide with or occur around the time of the next Town Retreat. Mr. Cook confirmed he would look at potential dates for these two events to take place first quarter 2021.

Red-Gate

Mr. Cook confirmed that work is on-going by the Dinkins family to prepare a plan for the Red-Gate project but no action for the PC at this time.

Suggest we put the presentation on the web-site and maybe make it a sub-category since more will follow.

III. **STAFF UPDATE**

No staff update at this time.

IV. **OPEN CITIZEN COMMENT**

No citizens signed in to speak.

V. **ADJOURNMENT**

Malcolm Gordge made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 PM. The Motion was seconded by Marcus Taylor. All in favor; 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

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Melissa Cowan, Town Clerk