

Amsterdam/Churchill Community Planning Group Minutes December 20, 2007

Attendees: Warren Vaughan, Walt Sales, Carl Vander Molen, Carol Weidenaar, Glen Flikkema, Robert Flikkema, Gene Bennett, Jason Kimm, Reese Miller, Brenda Darby, Gail Weidenaar, Bob Urich, Erika Braaksma, Karen Braaksma, Mark Kredit, Keith Venema, Tracy Downton, and John Fowler

Meeting Introduction:

- 1) Warren opened the meeting by asking everyone to say their name and share why they wanted to be a part of the Amsterdam/Churchill Planning Group. He also wanted to know what rumors anyone had heard regarding the community planning process. He passed around an agenda, as well as a sign in sheet.
- 2) There were some questions regarding county wide zoning, which Warren explained. He said Gallatin County would not zone the Amsterdam/Churchill Planning Area, but would instead listen to what the Amsterdam/Churchill community decides through its community meetings.
- 3) Warren noted that he had some additions to add to the summary from the first community meeting. He will then send out copies to the community members on the target mailing list. Also included will be the date, location, and time of the second community meeting.
- 4) Warren pointed out that the planning group has enough money left for one more community mailing, but a non-profit account will have to be opened at the bank for money raised for additional future mailings.

Planning Group Structure:

- 5) Planning group structure was discussed next. It was agreed that basic manners should cover the ground rules until a chair is elected after the second community meeting. Erika Braaksma agreed to take minutes when there were no other volunteers. Her duties include taking roll, recording topics discussed, and decisions made.
- 6) It was proposed that motions be followed by a 2nd as well as a “five finger vote.” (Motion and second not recorded). There needs to be a 100% consensus to move forward (meaning no 1 finger votes). The “five finger vote” is defined as follows:
 - 5 fingers – I love the idea.
 - 4 fingers – I think it’s pretty good.
 - 3 fingers – I could go either way.
 - 2 fingers – I don’t like it, but I won’t block it.
 - 1 finger – I hate it. I’m blocking it.

Warren noted that this type of vote works well with policy questions, but tougher issues may require a paper vote. The “five finger vote” concept was seconded and passed by consensus (3 fingers low, 5 fingers high).

- 7) The Amsterdam/Churchill Community Planning Group revisited their mission, which is to bring community planning proposals to the community meetings in order to be voted on by the members of the community.
- 8) It was moved and seconded that everyone is welcome to attend the Community Planning Group meetings. An attendee must be present at two consecutive meetings before he/she is allowed to vote at his/her third consecutive meeting. Likewise, an attendee must miss three consecutive planning group meetings before they lose their right to vote. Motion passed by consensus (3 low, 5 high).

Information and Boundary Decisions:

- 9) Warren passed around four large maps of the proposed Amsterdam/Churchill neighborhood planning area. Each map represented different aspects:
 - 1) A basic Gallatin County map of the Amsterdam/Churchill area
 - 2) Named rivers, streams, canals and ditches
 - 3) School Districts
 - 4) Parcel Classes

Warren noted that the yellow line in the maps represents the mailing target zone of the first community meeting. It does not necessarily represent the proposed Amsterdam/Churchill planning area.

- 10) Discussion over the proposed Amsterdam/Churchill planning area followed.
- 11) Warren introduced the idea of creating an Ag Lands Advisory Group as an advisory committee to the Community Planning Group. No action was taken on this proposal.
- 12) Glen moved and Keith seconded that the north boundary of the planning area be extended to meet up with the Manhattan Jurisdictional Boundary. Motion passed by consensus (all 5's). It is understood that the northeast boundary will be extended to just west of the intersection of Richman Road and Thorpe Road, so that the boundary does not cross over into the Belgrade Jurisdictional Boundary. Motion passed by consensus (all 5's).
- 13) It was agreed that the east boundary should meet up with the Belgrade Jurisdictional Boundary, although the specific location of the southeast boundary was never discussed. (No motion, second, or official vote were recorded for the east boundary).

- 14) Gene moved and Karen seconded that the south boundary of the planning area be extended to meet up with Norris road. Motion passed by consensus (2 low, 5 high).
- 15) Walt moved and Carl seconded that the west boundary be extended to follow Grainbelt road. Motion passed by consensus (3 low, 5 high).

Upcoming Meetings:

- 16) January 22nd or January 29th are the proposed dates for the second community planning meeting. It will be held from 7-9pm at the Manhattan Christian School Library. The first half of the meeting will be used to review the concerns of the community. During the second half, Warren will provide members of the community with needed tools to address the issues.
- 17) Warren asked what other information would be helpful to the planning group for future meetings. Information was requested on the following topics:
 - 1) fire
 - 2) sewer
 - 3) roads
 - 4) terminology and tools for zoning
 - 5) an update on the status of county wide zoning
- 18) Warren, Walt, and Carl agreed to contact land owners to the south and west to see how they feel about the proposed planning area.
- 19) Warren drew a pie graph depicting the planning process on the board. It included in equal thirds: good information, public participation, and implementation tools.
- 20) The next Amsterdam/Churchill planning group meeting will be held on January 7th from 7-9 pm at the Amsterdam Fire Department. Zoning training will be on the agenda.
- 21) The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm