



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Common Council

FROM: Darryn Burich
Director of Planning Services

DATE: March 3, 2016

RE: Approve Amended Public Participation Plan / City of Oshkosh Comprehensive Plan (Plan Commission Recommends Approval)

BACKGROUND

In the early 2000's as the City was preparing to move forward to develop a state mandated comprehensive plan, known commonly as the "Smart Growth" law, one of the requirements was to approve a Public Participation Plan that would let the public know how the plan was being developed; who would be involved in the preparation; and how the information would be disseminated to the public in an effort to incorporate transparency into the process. A Public Participation Plan was approved which guided the development of the 2005 City of Oshkosh Comprehensive Plan. Now that the City is undertaking a general update to the 2005 Comprehensive Plan being led by East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, staff is proposing some minor updates to the Public Participation Plan that reflects the update process and clarifies how the public will be involved and how information/feedback will be developed and disseminated during the update and approval process. Included in this staff report is a marked up copy of where changes are proposed to the current Public Participation Plan.

ANALYSIS

Some of the more significant changes proposed are reducing the number of public hearings from 3 to 2 as only one is required including several areas of public involvement and additional hearings seem unnecessary and administratively burdensome for a minor update. A change to allow Plan Commission alternates to be members of the Comprehensive Plan Update Committee (CPUC) even if all other Plan Commission members are present as there is no total membership cap and the participation of alternates will be an asset to the overall update process. A change from Steering Committee meetings to Targeted Focus Group meetings as this is a minor update versus a major update where more specific time may be needed to review each element. Steering Committees will once again be used when a major update is needed in the mid 2020's. A change to utilize recent feedback from past/ongoing planning projects to be used as a guide for forming recommendations as part of this update to reflect the time and effort put into developing those plans. A change to the intergovernmental meetings scheduled to be held clarifying who will be contacted as part of the update process. The existing Public Participation Plan is over 10 years old and it is necessary to review and refresh the existing plan given the changes that have occurred in overall planning and to reflect that this is a minor versus major update to the Comprehensive Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT

RECOMMENDATION

The Plan Commission recommended approval of the amendment to the Comprehensive Plan Public Participation Plan at its March 1, 2016 meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved,

Darryn Burich
Director of Planning Services

Mark Rohloff
City Manager