

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall, Bloomington, Indiana on Tuesday, September 25, 2017 at 6:33pm with Council President Susan Sandberg presiding over a Special Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
SPECIAL SESSION
Tuesday, September 25, 2017

Clerk’s Note: On August 29, 2017, the Common Council called to order a Special Session, which began the Council’s consideration of Resolution 17-28 to be completed over a series of meetings. Please refer to the minutes from that meeting for a description of the procedure for consideration of the resolution and amendments thereto.

Resolution 17-28 – To Adopt the City’s Comprehensive Plan

Roll Call: Sturbaum (left at 8:58pm), Ruff, Chopra, Granger, Sandberg, Volan, Piedmont-Smith, Sims, Rollo

ROLL CALL

Members Absent: None

Council President Susan Sandberg gave a summary of the agenda.

AGENDA SUMMATION

Scott Robinson, Planning Services Manager, provided an overview of Chapter 5 of the Comprehensive Plan (Plan). The chapter focused on housing and affordability. He explained the goals of the chapter and highlighted the fifteen respective policies that were embedded in the four overarching goals. He drew attention to the outcomes and indicators section of the chapter, which could be used to measure future success. He asked the Council to clarify how the public would be able to submit amendments.

Presentation, Discussion, and Public Comment on Chapter 5: Housing and Neighborhoods

Councilmember Dave Rollo commented that nationally, Bloomington was seen as affordable even though incomes did not match housing costs, which created an affordability issue. He pointed out that he saw no mention of how to increase incomes in the Plan. He asked the presenters to address this disparity.

Robinson questioned to what extent the Council could mandate incomes, should it be instructed to do so by the Plan.

Rollo said that incomes could be addressed in a later chapter which dealt with economics.

Councilmember Isabel Piedmont-Smith referred Rollo to Goal 1.6 in Chapter 1. She said if Rollo wished to enhance the Plan with further discussion on incomes, Goal 1.6 would likely be the best location for those remarks.

Rollo acknowledged that Goal 1.6 would be a good place on which to build.

Councilmember Steve Volan asked Robinson to define AMI.

Robinson responded that it stood for Area Medium Income.

Volan asked if it was for the city or the metropolitan area.

Robinson said that his understanding was that the number was calculated at the county level, but he was not certain.

Volan asked if there would be a conflict of interest in trying to make metropolitan housing more affordable based on an AMI which included those outside of the area in question.

Robinson stated that Volan was reading too much into the terminology. He said while defining affordable housing was difficult AMI was a barometer to help measure success depending on which target area was set by the Council.

Volan said he did not intend to belabor the point but expressed concerns with AMI measurements considering that the student population of Bloomington did not report income.

Robinson understood Volan's concern about skewed data.

Volan asked if a true Bloomington AMI had ever been calculated.

Robinson did not believe the Plan was the appropriate place to outline how to find the correct AMI.

Volan agreed and said he just wanted to call attention to the issue.

Councilmember Allison Chopra voiced her approval of the emphasis on affordable housing in the Plan. She asked if the Plan included any guidelines on upkeep and repair of buildings.

Robinson referred her to some of the action items enumerated in the program section.

Chopra stated she did not see her concerns addressed in the document.

Robinson said that the programs and goals did not have a one to one relationship, so there might not be a goal addressing Chopra's concerns. He pointed out that licensing and inspections were currently conducted by the city.

Piedmont-Smith noted that enforcement of the city's ordinances related to weeds and trash were often in response to a complaint.

Chopra expressed concerns about passing the Plan in 2017 using census data from 2010. She wondered if more current data could be used.

Robinson responded that the data were intended to be used as a benchmark only.

Chopra asked if more current data could be obtained. She said that the housing market was vastly different in 2017.

Robinson stated that the data used were from the most up to date census.

Chopra asked if the same data could be provided by the local board of realtors.

Robinson clarified that some of the information in the document was provided by the board of realtors which was from 2015.

Councilmember Chris Sturbaum questioned several of the key assumptions that he found in the Plan. He was distrustful of the desire to upzone single-family neighborhoods. He stated that in the past he had seen single family zoning help evolve neighborhoods in a positive way. Sturbaum asked if he was off base in his interpretation of the text.

Robinson responded nothing in the document contemplated upzoning single-family neighborhoods. He said the chapter dealt with land use, not zoning or rezoning processes.

Sturbaum asked where, given limited real estate and the fact that 90% of Bloomington was built-out, the innovative initiatives and diverse housing types called for by the Plan would be located. He said the open-ended interpretation of the document concerned him.

Robinson stated that the Plan was the first stage and he could not necessarily answer Sturbaum’s question. He said that the intent was not to upzone single-family neighborhoods. Several concepts in the Plan, he said, could be seen as competing and there would have to be some give and take. He viewed the chapter as pertaining to undeveloped zones of Bloomington or areas which could be redeveloped. He affirmed that any zoning decisions would come before the Plan Commission and would ultimately need approval from the Council.

Sturbaum said he would work on sections he thought might be misinterpreted. He said he felt reassured by Robinson’s remarks.

Rollo asked how form-based zoning would challenge single-family zoning, wondering if there was something specific in the chapter that concerned Sturbaum.

Sturbaum answered that some communities rewrote their zoning codes to be purely form-based, which could encourage the types of intrusions on single-family neighborhoods which concerned Sturbaum.

Rollo asked if it was the intent of staff to encourage rezoning.

Robinson said that was not the intent.

Sturbaum wondered if certain initiatives would make housing less affordable to the single-family property owner. He warned that loose language could open doors that Bloomington had not intended when it completed its Envision Bloomington process.

Rollo asked Sturbaum to point to the loose language he was referencing.

Sturbaum read excerpts he viewed as loosely worded.

Volan pointed out that the Council had the amendment process for that reason and Sturbaum should work on amendments to the chapter.

Sandberg called for public comment.

Public Comment

Deborah Myerson expressed her concerns about the broad language of the Plan and the absence of specific recommendations. She proposed an amendment to the Plan.

Volan agreed that the Plan was too vague. He stated that the devil was in the details and that the Council should take more time to address the housing crisis. He stated that it was a shame that homelessness was not addressed in the chapter. He believed the Council needed more time to fix these issues.

Council Comment:

Rollo agreed with Volan and Myserson that the chapter had issues that needed to be addressed. He did not feel the 120% of AMI criteria was necessarily a precise measurement. He also thought the Plan should address wage growth in the community.

Granger said there should be more focus on home ownership and first-time home ownership because she felt owner-occupied homes helped to stabilize neighborhoods.

Sturbaum said that he felt the chapter took several steps away from home ownership. He was still confused about where new housing initiatives would occur as Bloomington was primarily built out. He asked why the chapter seemingly strayed from encouraging single-family housing.

Piedmont-Smith stated that both occupancy and rental rates were extremely high in Bloomington in part because there was a lack of supply. Density, she said, should be at the center of the community where residents could access services and jobs. She did not feel that allowing different housing types would necessarily have to be a negative on older neighborhoods. Increasing density, Piedmont-Smith said, was an essential part of encouraging affordable housing. She also cautioned the Council to keep in mind that the Plan was not codified law but rather a general plan for the Council moving forward.

Sturbaum said he remembered before there was zoning, when single-family neighborhoods were over-occupied and were being run into the ground by multi-family rentals. He was concerned about opening up the gates of densification.

Volan stated that he took both Sturbaum and Piedmont-Smith's points. He thought adding definitions to the document might help clarify some of the vague vocabulary.

Sandberg and Council Attorney Dan Sherman clarified how members of the public would be able to submit proposals for amendments.

Volan moved and it was seconded to amend the agenda for the meeting.

The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Sturbaum introduced and summarized Amendment 6. He highlighted some wording adjustments made by the amendment.

Rollo asked what staff thought of the proposed amendment, especially regarding the use of the term "compatible" instead of the original wording "innovative".

Robinson responded that staff did not support the changes being proposed. He thought the amendment would slow down the process of updating the city's UDO. He also said staff did not support the wording change from "investigate" to "create", as there could be additional considerations to be addressed before creating an architectural review committee. Staff did not have a preference between "innovative" and "compatible".

Volan asked if the "investigate architectural review committee" language left open the possibility of not creating such a committee.

Robinson said doing nothing was always an option. He said using the word investigate would leave that option open, while still allowing for other options.

Volan asked Robinson to elaborate why he felt that an architectural review committee might not be worth forming.

Robinson speculated that investigating would allow the community to choose between the tradeoffs of action or inaction.

Granger asked for the reasoning behind creating an architectural review committee.

Sturbaum answered that projects which came forward often had controversy that centered on design. The amendment was intended to increase the transparency behind project design. He felt such a committee would help create better design.

Presentation, Discussion, and Public Comment on Chapter 5: Housing and Neighborhoods (*cont'd*)

Motion to amend agenda

Vote on motion to amend agenda [7:37pm]

Amendment 06

Council Questions:

Amendment 06 (cont'd)

Volan added that public conversation earlier on would reduce contentious meetings later in the process.

Piedmont-Smith asked whether the committee being discussed would only review development downtown or if it would review all planned unit developments (PUDs).

Volan thought such a committee would be used to review requests for PUDs.

Rollo said that, that having served on the Plan Commission, he felt architecture was not a preeminent focus in discussions. He supported an architectural review committee to increase the attention devoted to each project.

Piedmont-Smith thought part of the problem was that the UDO lacked architectural standards, which she said could be addressed when the city later updated the UDO. She confirmed with Robinson that the city was trying to address concerns related to architecture by utilizing an architectural firm as a consultant.

Councilmember Andy Ruff asked staff to explain the effects of the proposed amendment.

Robinson explained the difference between investigating the formation of a committee and actually forming it. Staff did not feel comfortable creating the committee without gathering further information. Staff wanted to keep investigating options instead of being told to take a course of action which might not be ideal.

Ruff asked how this amendment would interfere with the current process staff was undertaking.

Robinson answered that evaluation and consideration was important. He felt the purpose of the Plan was to be a guiding document and a first step, not a mandate.

Ruff asked if staff viewed the proposed amendment as a directive.

Robinson said yes, if the expectation from Council was to form the committee.

Volan commented on the tone of the Plan and his desire for it to be more direct and more specific.

Council Comment:

Granger said it seemed most effective to go ahead and create a committee to help the council analyze issues it would have to face.

Sturbaum stated that the idea of such a committee had been under discussion for over a decade in a constant state of investigation. He recognized that it might be cumbersome to staff and developers but he felt that the design improvements would be worth the extra step. He pointed out that the wording did not contain a date or preclude staff from investigating the committee before creating it.

The motion to adopt Amendment 06 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 5, Nays: 4 (Ruff, Chopra, Piedmont-Smith, Sims), Abstain: 0.

Vote on Amendment 06
[8:02pm]

Volan moved and it was seconded to adopt Amendment 08.

Amendment 08

Sturbaum presented and described the amendment, displaying an example of a Nolli map he thought could be a useful planning tool.

Council Questions:

Volan asked what staff thought of the amendment.

Robinson answered that staff did not object to the idea but was concerned about the wording of the amendment which Robinson felt served as a directive that would require mapping before the approval of any project.

Sturbaum responded that he thought the map should be part of the planner's presentation as another communication tool.

Ruff asked to hear more from staff.

Josh Desmond, Assistant Director of Planning and Transportation, responded that the only concern with the amendment was the phrase "prior to approving developments," which he interpreted as stopping any development approval until such a map had been created.

Sturbaum suggested that there might be more appropriate language to use in the amendment as the intent was not to stop development.

Volan pointed out that the original phrasing of the amendment did not contain the wording that staff was concerned about. He suggested changing the wording from, "prior to approving" to "as a development review tool".

Sturbaum said he would support such a change.

Chopra asked what the effect would be of including something so direct in the Plan.

Robinson responded that the wording created a new tool that could be used as an action item.

Chopra asked whether adding a new program would be simply a mere suggestion and wondered what would happen if it were not followed. She said the Plan seemed like the wrong place for such a directive.

Sturbaum said that such initiatives were common in the document.

Chopra asked staff if they found the amendment to be consistent with the document.

Robinson said he thought the amendment as reworded was an appropriate program to include in the downtown chapter.

Phillip Stafford voiced confusion as to where the responsibility would be for creating the map. He supported the amendment.

Public Comment:

Volan stated that the text in the document was critically important, even though it was not code. He said that he firmly believed in legislative intent and the plan would be a significant tool for the Council in creating future code.

Council Comment:

Piedmont-Smith said she supported the amendment.

Sherman reminded the Council about the voting process.

Rollo appreciated the amendment and thought it was crucial for reviewing development proposals.

Volan moved and it was seconded to adopt Amendment 01 to <u>Amendment 08</u> .	Amendment 01 to <u>Amendment 08</u>
The motion to adopt Amendment 01 to <u>Amendment 08</u> was approved by voice vote.	Vote on Amendment 01 to <u>Amendment 08</u> [8:19pm]
Volan expressed his disappointment that Sturbaum struck the original text of the amendment. He hoped that if Sturbaum brought it forward as an ordinance he would utilize the original text.	Council Comment:
Piedmont-Smith explained that she had requested Sturbaum reduce the lengthy text.	
The motion to adopt <u>Amendment 08</u> as amended received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 1 (Chopra), Abstain: 0.	Vote on <u>Amendment 08</u> as amended [8:21pm]
Volan moved and it was seconded to adopt <u>Amendment 21</u> .	<u>Amendment 21</u>
Volan introduced and summarized the amendment.	
Piedmont-Smith asked how the streetscapes and public improvements mentioned in the amendment would be financed.	Council Questions:
Volan stated that the Plan was a resolution, not code. He said his intent was to create a more directive document even if it was not technically a mandate.	
Piedmont-Smith asked what the difference was.	
Volan said Piedmont-Smith was underscoring the issues he had with the document as a whole.	
Piedmont-Smith stated that the amendment read as a directive to make streetscape improvements. She said she was uncomfortable with the wording as the Council was not yet aware of what funding it would have to make such improvements.	
Volan stated that he would prefer to strike the phrase altogether as it said something already being done.	
Councilmember Jim Sims asked if Volan was offering to strike the phrase entirely.	
Volan said he would entertain such a proposal. He thought that if the phrase was going to be in the document, it should be more direct.	
Sims said he supported directness in the Plan but was concerned with taking out language encouraging innovation. He thought the effect of some amendments would be to encourage the city to keep doing the same things it had done in the past, which would not lead to any change.	
Volan responded to Sim’s concerns by giving specific examples of streets that needed more attention.	
Rollo thought it would be generally agreeable and not controversial that streetscapes for the city’s gateways should be improved. He said the amendment was meant to create a directive to accomplish that goal.	
Granger supported the amendment and noted opportunities for streetscapes to be improved, if funds were available to do so.	Council Comment:
Sims thanked Granger for her comment as it helped clarify the intention of the amendment for him.	
Sherman and the Council discussed how to reconcile <u>Amendment 21</u> with a previous amendment.	

Volan moved and it was seconded to adopt Amendment 01 to Amendment 21.

Amendment 01 to Amendment 21

The motion to adopt Amendment 01 to Amendment 21 was approved by voice vote.

Vote on Amendment 01 to Amendment 21 [8:34pm]

The motion to adopt Amendment 08 as amended received a roll call vote of Ayes: 7, Nays: 1 (Chopra), Abstain: 1 (Sims).

Vote on Amendment 21 as amended [8:34pm]

Volan moved and it was seconded to adopt Amendment 07.

Amendment 07

Sturbaum briefly described the amendment.

Chopra asked Sturbaum if he saw the amendment as a directive to be addressed in the city budget or in the transportation budget.

Council Questions:

Sturbaum said that the issue sometimes came up in development proposals. He thought the amendment could help provide direction during consideration of such proposals.

Piedmont-Smith thought the amendment was covered in Chapter 6 and would be better placed there. She asked Sturbaum how he felt about placing the text there.

Sturbaum stated he did not see a problem with having the text in Chapter 5.

Volan asked if Sturbaum did not advocate for having bus shelters outside of the downtown area.

Sturbaum said no and that the Council could include the language later in the Plan.

Chopra asked Sturbaum if he would be willing to move the language to the transportation chapter.

Sturbaum stated he would. He asked staff if they had an opinion on the placement of the amendment.

Robinson said the amendment would be more appropriate in Chapter 6. He also voiced concerns with the phrase “create funding” in the amendment.

Chopra stated she would be voting no due to the placement issue pointed out by Piedmont-Smith.

Council Comment:

Piedmont-Smith said she could not in good conscience vote for something that directed the city to create funding. She also felt the amendment would be better placed in Chapter 6. For those two reasons she planned to vote no.

Volan agreed with the criticisms. He also felt shelters were more necessary outside of the downtown area. He felt it was appropriate to create more shelters, using the phrase “identify funding”, in Chapter 6.

Rollo said he did not mind the redundancy and viewed the downtown as a special case. He supported the amendment.

Chopra thought the Plan should encourage people to use bus transportation throughout the entire city, not just the downtown. She thought the amendment put too much emphasis on the downtown area.

Rollo commented that the amendment did not preclude creating shelters in other parts of the city. He felt that the language belonged in the downtown chapter as that area needed shelters.

Amendment 07 (cont'd)

Chopra did not see the point of putting a special emphasis on the downtown area if people agreed that shelters should be a priority at all bus stops.

Sturbaum commented that he would support putting the amendment into another chapter but, regardless of where it was located in the Plan, the city needed more bus shelters.

The motion to adopt Amendment 07 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 2 (Sturbaum, Rollo), Nays: 7, Abstain: 0. FAILED.

Vote on Amendment 07
[8:44pm]

Volan moved and it was seconded to adopt Amendment 22.

Amendment 22

Volan and Rollo described the amendment.

Piedmont-Smith pointed out that Amendment 22 and Amendment 12 each dealt with the same language in the Plan. She explained the differences between the two amendments.

Volan pointed out other differences between the two amendments.

Piedmont-Smith asked if Mr. Robinson had anything to add.
Robinson raised some concerns with Amendment 22.

Council Questions:

Volan commented that concern about section four of the amendment revolved around the same semantic debate regarding active versus passive language. He said he would be willing to change “task” back to “work with” but wondered who the Plan was meant to direct.

Sandberg asked if Volan would be willing to accept a friendly amendment to change the wording of “task”.

Volan asked again who was supposed to take direction from the bullet point in question.

Sandberg said everyone would look at the Plan as a framework going forward.

Volan said he was unsure who was supposed to be leading the development of the parking management plan.

Rollo said he felt that the council should remain open to the language “coordinate with”. He asked if Volan objected to that.

Volan pointed out the department controlled a majority of the seats on the parking commission, one of which remained unfilled.

Rollo asking if the ordinance creating the Parking Commission gave the commission the responsibility of leading development of a parking management plan.

Robinson answered Volan’s earlier question about the intended audience for the Plan, which included city officials, business leaders, community organizations, and residents.

Volan read from the ordinance that created the Parking Commission and said it was clear that the intent of the commission was to develop policy. He suggested that staff should support the amendment as the seats on the commission were filled by the administration instead of the Council.

Sandberg stated that she was more comfortable with the language “coordinate with” than “task”.

Volan agreed that “task” might have been an unfortunate word but he did not feel that the word “task” was an inappropriate choice.

Rollo moved and it was seconded to adopt Amendment 01 to Amendment 22.

The motion to adopt Amendment 01 to Amendment 22 was approved by voice vote.

Vote on Amendment 01 to Amendment 22 [9:02pm]

Piedmont-Smith stated she was comfortable with the amendment.

Council Comment:

The motion to adopt Amendment 22 as amended received a roll call vote of Ayes: 7, Nays: 1 (Chopra), Abstain: 0.

Vote on Amendment 22 as amended [9:03pm]

Volan moved and it was seconded to adopt Amendment 12.

Amendment 12

Piedmont-Smith pointed out that Amendment 22 had made much of Amendment 12 moot. She pointed out relevant portions of the amendment.

Sherman confirmed that the amendment addressing public restrooms downtown had been previously defeated.

Piedmont-Smith asked if she could amend her own amendment to discard the last two bullet points pertaining to public restrooms.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded to adopt Amendment 01 to Amendment 12.

The motion to adopt Amendment 01 to Amendment 12 was approved by voice vote.

Vote on Amendment 01 to Amendment 12 [9:05pm]

Sherman clarified the sections of the amendment that were being removed.

The motion to adopt Amendment 12 as amended received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote on Amendment 12 as amended [9:07pm]

Volan moved and it was seconded to adopt Amendment 23.

Amendment 23

Volan pointed out that Sturbaum had sponsored the amendment so Volan could not fully speak to it, but provided a brief description.

The Council, Robinson, and Sherman discussed whether to consider Amendment 23, along with Amendment 35 and Amendment 39, as part of a consent agenda. The Council decided to take up each item individually.

The motion to adopt Amendment 23 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 7, Nays: 1 (Chopra), Abstain: 0.

Vote on Amendment 23 [9:13pm]

Granger moved and it was seconded to adopt Amendment 35.

Amendment 35

Granger described the amendment and explained why she favored it.

The motion to adopt Amendment 35 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote on Amendment 35 [9:15pm]

Volan moved and it was seconded to adopt Amendment 39. Amendment 39

Volan asked if Phillip Stafford would discuss the amendment in light of Sturbaum’s absence.

Stafford presented the amendment and explained how the concept of a lifetime community district could help provide a framework for redevelopment of the former hospital site.

Granger asked Robinson to clarify a portion of the language in question. Council Questions:

Robinson clarified that “maintain” was one of the development themes discussed at a previous meeting.

Sandberg asked if staff had any concerns with the amendment. Robinson said that staff was fine with the amendment.

Volan said he supported the amendment and appreciated Stafford’s efforts. Council Comment:

The motion to adopt Amendment 35 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. Vote on Amendment 35 [9:21pm]

The Council had a discussion of whether to continue considering amendments or to go into recess.

Chopra moved to go into recess. Amendment 24

Volan moved and it was seconded to introduce Amendment 24.

The motion to introduce Amendment 24 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 6, Nays: 2 (Ruff, Chopra), Abstain: 0. Vote on motion to introduce Amendment 24 [9:27pm]

Volan described the amendment.

Sandberg asked for staff’s response. Council Questions:
Robinson said staff was fine with the amendment.

Volan moved and it was seconded that Amendment 24 be adopted.

The motion to adopt Amendment 24 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 7, Nays: 1, Abstain: 0. Vote on Amendment 24 [9:29pm]

Volan moved and it was seconded to adopt Amendment 25. Amendment 25

Volan described the amendment.

Sims asked Volan about the intent of the amendment. Council Questions:
Volan said the amendment encouraged people to think about streets as public spaces, not simply roads for cars.

The motion to adopt Amendment 25 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 6, Nays: 1 (Chopra), Abstain: 1 (Grange). Vote on Amendment 25 [9:31pm]

Volan moved and it was seconded to adopt Amendment 26.

Amendment 26

Piedmont-Smith introduced and described the various parts of the amendment, stating that the overarching rationale behind the changes was to reorganize the passages in question.

Piedmont-Smith and Sherman clarified that Amendment 26 would need to be reconciled with Amendment 25 if they were in conflict.

Piedmont-Smith moved and it was seconded to adopt Amendment 01 to Amendment 26.

The motion to adopt Amendment 01 to Amendment 26 was approved by voice vote.

Vote on Amendment 01 to Amendment 26 [9:36pm]

Piedmont-Smith invited any questions or feedback to section one of the amendment.

Sandberg asked for staff response.

Council Questions:

Robinson stated that staff was in favor of the amendment.

Piedmont-Smith and Granger discussed adding additional language about bus shelters to section two of the amendment.

Sandberg asked for staff feedback.

Robinson said staff supported the amendment.

Piedmont-Smith described sections three and four of the amendment.

Volan thanked his colleagues for their work in crafting the amendment. He wished the amendment had been broken down further.

Council Comment:

Rollo commented that the section of the amendment describing the platinum distinction was extremely well written. He appreciated Piedmont-Smith and Granger's efforts in crafting the amendment.

The motion to adopt Amendment 26 as amended received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Vote on Amendment 26 as amended [9:46pm]

Volan moved and it was seconded to adopt Amendment 27.

Amendment 27

Volan introduced the amendment and said he understood that the amendment was confusing due to the changes made by former amendments.

Volan moved and it was seconded that Amendment 27 be withdrawn.

Motion to withdraw Amendment 27

The motion to withdraw was approved by voice vote.

Vote on motion to withdraw Amendment 27 [9:50pm]

Volan moved and it was seconded to adopt Amendment 28. Amendment 28

Granger described the amendment.

Volan commented that he was in support of the change and also said that, as a point of order, he would not introduce Amendment 29 for the same reason that he withdrew Amendment 26. Council Comment:

The motion to adopt Amendment 28 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. Vote on Amendment 28 [9:52pm]

Volan moved and it was seconded to adopt Amendment 30. Amendment 30

Volan introduced the amendment and described his reasons for introducing it.

Rollo said that, if parking lots were going to exist, there were ways to make them more environmentally sensitive. He asked if Volan did not see that possibility. Council Questions:

Volan thought the unamended policy called for things the city was already doing and did not need to be in the Plan.

Sandberg asked for staff's opinion on the amendment.

Robinson answered that staff generally agreed with the idea of parking maximums but said the intent of the original language was to apply to public parking spaces instead of private ones. He felt that Volan was looking at it from a private sector viewpoint.

Volan said he thought that the section was referring to private parking spaces due to the word choice of "encourage". He thought the city had control over making its parking facilities environmentally sensitive, so it would not need to merely encourage that action.

Rollo commented that he liked the original language as he thought calling for environmentally-sensitive parking areas was a good thing. He did not see how parking maximums tied in with the original text.

Volan said that if the text referred to public parking spaces then it should not say "encourage", as the city would not need to encourage itself. He wanted the policy to say something different than what the council was currently doing. He felt that the terms "parking" and "environmentally-sensitive" created an oxymoron. He said that if the city were truly concerned about being environmentally sensitive it would be doing anything it could to discourage more parking areas, such as establishing a maximum amount of parking allowed as proposed by the amendment.

Piedmont-Smith asked how the proposed amendment fit under Goal 6.4.

Volan said the amendment would tell people to plan for parking maximums. He said that parking took up space that could be used for other, more desirable uses.

Piedmont-Smith said she agreed with Rollo that the Council should encourage environmentally-sensitive parking areas. She did not feel that simply because the city already encouraged such parking that the text should be omitted from the document. She was not satisfied with Volan's response to her question regarding the relationship of the proposed amendment and the goal it would fall under. Council Comment:

Rollo agreed with Piedmont-Smith in total.

Amendment 30 (cont'd)

Volan said he understood the amendment might not pass but stated that he might create another amendment that would not eliminate the original language. He asked the Council to do further research into parking.

The motion to adopt Amendment 30 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 1 (Volan), Nays: 7, Abstain: 0. FAILED. Vote on Amendment 30 [10:04pm]

Volan moved and it was seconded to adopt Amendment 31.

Amendment 31

Volan described the amendment.

Sandberg called for response from staff.

Robinson responded that the amendment would entail a significant policy change.

Piedmont-Smith asked what "improve system legibility" meant.

Council Questions:

Volan responded that it referred to the signage on or the design of the streets that made it easy for people to interpret what they should do.

Piedmont-Smith commented that the amendment deleted a valuable policy statement about educating bicyclists and drivers. She felt that education was incredibly important, and even if the city already had educational efforts, she felt those deserved inclusion in the Plan.

Council Comment:

Piedmont-Smith also remarked that the decision to restore one-way streets to two-way streets should not so quickly be decided or with little public notice.

Volan commented that the language regarding two-way streets included the caveat, "wherever possible". To him, that did not indicate any type of mandate. He also said that the amendment should receive the same consideration as others, even though it was being addressed late at night. He wanted to know if it would receive support if it was recrafted.

Sims said he would not support such a change even if it were reworded.

The motion to adopt Amendment 31 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 2 (Ruff, Volan), Nays: 6, Abstain: 0. FAILED. Vote on Amendment 30 [10:13pm]

Sandberg and Sherman reviewed the upcoming council schedule.

COUNCIL SCHEDULE

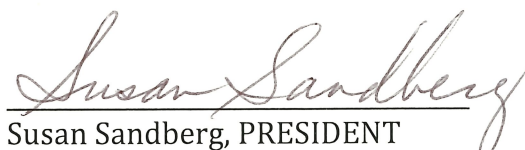
The meeting went into recess at 10:14pm.


RECESS

APPROVED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana upon this 20th day of December, 2017.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:


Susan Sandberg, PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council


Nicole Bolden, CLERK
City of Bloomington