

STAFF REPORT

DATE: 08/27/2025

TO: Bel Aire City Council

FROM: Paula Downs

RE: Bel Aire 2035 Comprehensive Plan

STAFF COMMUNICATION

FOR MEETING OF	9/2/2025
CITY COUNCIL	
INFORMATION ONLY	

SUMMARY: Bel Aire 2035 Comprehensive Plan

The city placed notification on the City of Bel Aire's website as required by city code. The affidavit of publication is provided. The comprehensive plan required notification of public hearing which was made on July 24, 2025.

Planning Commission approved the Comprehensive Plan Resolution at their August 14, 2025, meeting. The draft meeting minutes provide details of the discussion. Meeting minutes are included in the agenda packet.

Background:

In 2023, the City initiated a project to create a new comprehensive plan that describes a vision and framework for the community's development over the next 10 years. The document will serve as a roadmap for adopting new policies and initiatives that achieve its identified vision. The comprehensive plan will assist the City Council in making well-informed decisions regarding land use and capital improvements.

The plan will complement zoning regulations, development codes, capital improvement programs and other city processes.

August 14, 2025- Planning Commission Meeting

The Planning Commission were provided a brief overview of the planning process and overall organization of the planning document.

Planning Process:

Phase 1: Community Assessment

The first phase included a review of previous planning documents and policies, land use conditions, demographic trends, and local development opportunities and constraints.

Phase 2: Community Engagement

Although identified as a specific phase of the planning process, community engagement was carried out throughout the entire project calendar. A series of stakeholder group events and listening sessions, pop-up community events, and City leadership engagement were prioritized to ensure the planning vision created is reflective of diverse community voices.

Phase 3: Planning

Following the community assessment and initial phases of the community engagement process, considerable time and effort were invested to establish a community vision. Once the vision was identified, the planning team worked to develop community goals, policies, and strategies through continued analysis and community dialogue.

Phase 4: Refine, Adopt, & Implement

During this phase, the final review of the plan occurred, followed by the official plan adoption process.

Plan Organization:

The Bel Aire 2035 Comprehensive Plan is organized into three sections and three appendices.

Section 1: Section explains how the Plan came to be, why it is necessary, and how it should be integrated into daily decisions. Of interest is the Community History visual.

Section 2: Describes the value statements and goals for the plan. Value Statements are as follows:

- a. Bel Aire's Non-Residential Environment Will Enhance the Quality of Life for All Residents and Visitors Alike. Value includes seven (7) goals.
- b. Bel Aire's transportation system will be safe, enhance the aesthetic appreciation of the City, and provide efficient options for all transportation modes. Value includes nine (9) goals.
- c. Bel Aire's parks and recreation system will provide first class spaces and programming for all ages and abilities. Value includes six (6) goals.
- d. Bel Aire's built environment will communicate a distinct identity to create cohesion, increase community pride, and attract residents, businesses, and visitors. Value includes eight (8) goals.
- e. Bel Aire will concentrate on sustainable growth through smart investments and community communication. Value includes eight (8) goals.
- f. Bel Aire will be a destination of choice for people at all stages of life. Value has six (6) goals.

Section 3: Provides the Plan's recommendations related to future land use and the built environment. This section delivers recommendations to guide Bel Aire as the City works to achieve this Plan's vision.

The Appendices cover detailed background information that was considered comprehensively to form the Plan. Appendix A is an in-depth assessment of the community that includes a snapshot of where the City is now. Appendix B summarizes relevant plans and studies that were evaluated during the development of the plan. Appendix C is a full recap of the community engagement events and findings.

The Planning Commission asked several questions and made comments about the plan which Lance Onstott, PEC, answered and responded to:

1. Does the comprehensive plan go across 254? The land use does in certain areas- place types are predicted through the city's area of influence or the extraterritorial jurisdiction. Rural neighborhood is housing that doesn't require public utilities such as a farm, five-acre subdivision, etc.
2. What are the two or three things that are different between our previous plan and this plan? What two or three ways were you surprised at the input that maybe went in a different direction from the previous plan? Previous plan was in 2018- Master Growth Plan- it only looked at future land use and it didn't have any value statements. Major difference it used the traditional way of looking at land use such as single-family residential, etc. Development patterns were similar between the plans. Water and sewer plans were developed ahead of the comprehensive plan so that information could be used to assess costs of service and return on investment as the city continues to grow. The community had a desire for different modes of transportation-they want to safely move around our community without a vehicle. The city has good potential for off street trails utilizing the floodplain areas as pathways. Any future option for a rail to trail option could be utilized in the future if changes occur in the use of the railroad tracks. Trains will continue to use the tracks in the foreseeable future.
3. Commission felt the plan was well put together graphically and it is user friendly so it can be used.
4. Anything surprise you when meeting with the various groups? Alternative transportation was surprising across all groups. It not surprising to hear that there was confusion about the identity of the city. People expressed the need for grocery stores and restaurants, but don't really want to grow. Many people want the small-town feel, but also the large city services. City will need to navigate these needs.
5. Is the City lacking in services? Land use was analyzed, and the City is 90% primarily residential. 0.8% of land use in Bel Aire is currently commercial use.
6. Comprehensive plan will help the city make decision on what and how to develop in the future. The plan is a 10-year plan
7. Was there any discussion about working with or looking at the plans from Metropolitan Area Planning Commission (MAPC)? This wasn't assessed in detail but did look at where they are projecting employment and housing areas. Looked at Wichita Area

Metropolitan Planning Organization's (WAMPO) transportation plan to influence the plan.

8. Does Wichita have any plans for East of Bel Aire? Unknown currently. Generally, they will face the need for services in that area.
9. It is surprising that Bel Aire has a high rate of not-for-profit land uses in the City.
10. Some concern that when the Commission reviews a case, preliminary plat and final plat we may ask for a reduction in lots to allow for green space, which the Commission doesn't have the authority to do that, so there is no enforcement.
11. If it shows up on the master plan for more green space, how does that get implemented or steered that way? One way is to review zoning and subdivision regulations, building codes and policies around funding developments to steer towards implementing this vision. Developers and designers are always looking at the codes, so the city needs to ensure that codes reflect what we want to see happen. The other way is how we encourage development patterns through policies- City might want to participate in funding developments in a different way if they utilize the comprehensive plan vision.

During the public hearing two Kechi residents spoke. They lived in a neighborhood on North Rock Road. One citizen asked what the Comprehensive Plan covers, and Lance Onstott responded that the plan only covers what is in Bel Aire. The other citizen commented that when talking about (city) identity that people are starting to call Bel Aire "duplex city" and they believe that Bel Aire has enough duplexes.

The Planning Commission moved to adopt the Resolution to Adopt the Bel Aire 20235 Comprehensive Plan as presented and recommend that the Governing Body approve the Plan by publication of an Ordinance per K.S.A. 12-747(b).

City Council Review:

The City Council has been involved in community engagement events and provided input into the plan. Current discussion is to provide any modifications to the plan you feel is appropriate.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommend that the comprehensive plan be approved with any appropriate modifications identified by the City Council.



MINUTES
PLANNING COMMISSION
7651 E. Central Park Ave, Bel Aire, KS
August 14, 2025, 6:30 PM



I. Call to Order: Chairman Phillip Jordan called the meeting to order at 6:30

II. Roll Call

Chairman Phillip Jordan and Commissioners Dee Roths, Paul Matzek and Brian Stuart were present. Commissioners Derek Faber and Brian Mackey were absent. Quorum was present.

Also present were Paula Downs, Secretary and Maria Schrock City Attorney.

III. Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Chairman Phillip Jordan led the pledge of allegiance.

IV. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting.

No updates or changes were requested.

Motion: Commissioner Matzek moved to approve the meeting minutes of the June 12, 2025, meeting. Commissioner Stuart seconded the motion. *Motion carried 4-0.*

V. Announcements: No announcements were made by staff.

VI. Old Business/New Business

A. Public Hearing on the Consideration of a Resolution to Adopt the Bel Aire 2035 Comprehensive Plan

Paula Downs, Secretary provided background information on the Comprehensive Plan to support Lance Onstott, PEC who will provide a more detailed presentation of the Comprehensive Plan.

The plan was initiated in 2023 through a long and thoughtful process that involved several workshops that included Planning Commission members. The plan was developed in four phases: Community Assessment; Community Engagement; Planning and Refine, Adopt & Implement. The draft document was developed from engagement and other information gathering that took place over the last year. The plan document is organized into three sections with appendices. Sections included: section one is a current visual representation of

the community; section two lays out six value statements and goals for each one; and section three includes plans and recommendations for future land use for the built environment. The final section of the plan are appendixes that provide details on the activities that occurred during the planning process.

The plan has good foundational information about the community, and it has set out design standards. It shows how we will look at the city moving forward and the engagement process that took place to prepare the plan.

Lance Onstott, PEC stated that state statute requires that the comprehensive plan have a public hearing, and the agenda item tonight is for the Planning Commission to approve and adopt the plan, by Resolution, for governing body approval by ordinance.

Lance provided highlights of the plan and its purpose:

- The comprehensive plan should represent the vision of the community for the next 10 years and be a record of the community's shared goals and desires. The plan is not an agreement on everything but reflects common themes so that the City can make informed decisions.
- The Appendices show what has happened in Bel Aire in the last 20 years: demographics, market-based land use, development patterns, and what is happening now and what is projected for the future.
- The plan primarily addresses the built environment or the physical part of the City.
- The City will use the comprehensive plan to make decisions on planning and zoning cases, budgets, staffing, and public safety.
- As things change the plan may need to be updated and by statute it will be reviewed every year.
- The plan was developed in stages starting with developing the community assessment on past and current information. The second phase was the engagement of the community, city leadership, and city staff. The final stage is the final draft plan being reviewed and approved.
- Three different "teams" were engaged in preparing this plan. The core team were staff that met regularly to review and provide comments on the plan. City leadership included the City Council and the Planning Commission in workshops to engage in the development of the plan. Stakeholders provided feedback during fall festival, workshops, focus groups and interviews. There should be no surprises in the plan.

Lance stated that the three primary sections of the plan include: introduction; value Statements/Goals; and land Use Framework. In addition, the appendices are good references on how the plan was developed. This section lists; resources, community engagement details, census and other data sources, and other City plans. All notes and summary information for the community engagement activities are also included. Those details support the information contained in the other sections of the plan.

Lance stated that the values statements and goals were developed from the overarching themes that were heard during the engagement activities. For each value statement there are goals which are those things that are measurable to make sure we are making progress on the plan. There are six value statements:

- Economic Development- *Bel Aire's Non-Residential Environment Will Enhance The Quality Of Life For All Residents And Visitors Alike*
- Transportation- *Bel Aire's Transportation System Will Be Safe, Enhance The Aesthetic Appreciation of the City, and Provide Efficient Options For All Transportation Modes.*
- Parks and Recreation- *Bel Aire's Parks And Recreation System Will Provide First Class Spaces And Programming For All Ages And Abilities.*
- Community Identity and Character- *Bel Aire's Built Environment Will Communicate A Distinct Identity To Create Cohesion, Increase Community Pride, And Attract Residents, Businesses, And Visitors*
- Growth & Investment- *Bel Aire Will Concentrate On Sustainable Growth Through Smart Investments And Community Communication.*
- Housing- *Bel Aire Will Be A Destination Of Choice For People At All Stages Of Life.*
- Every decision made should be influenced by the value statements. If there is a policy change or a re-zoning application that is not furthering one of the value statements then it needs to be critically looked at. It organizes your decision making and staff recommendations and it will serve as a guide for private investment.

Lance discussed the Future Land-Use Map which shows where residential and commercial uses are in the City. The first level of assessment before projecting future growth patterns is to establish four key elements to create places. We want to create an identifiable space designed around the uses for that space. The four building blocks are: green spaces- designed park, programmed park, natural preserve; complete neighbors; corridors; and centers.

In addition to the building blocks there are place types. Place Types will represent each one of those building block key elements. There are ten place types used in the city. For each place type these elements are included: description, including a narrative of the place type to be used in a staff report; types of land uses that are appropriate in each place type; utilized existing zoning districts to determine where each district could be compatible with each place type; and images to further communicate what the place types are looking to do.

Lance highlighted three example place types. One place type is a traditional neighborhood. There are no place types in the plan that are exclusively single family or multi-family residential place types. The goal is to see various place elements like homes, churches, or a corner store to create a complete neighborhood environment. This is predominately the place type that the city's future land use map is using. Another place type is a neighborhood corridor which is based on based on the transportation corridor. The goal is to build corridors or streets to complement the neighborhood. There may be something that the neighborhood

might need to quickly access like the corner store, bank or restaurant- these elements would be within the corridor. It is not an area that would have a mall. Centers are another place type. The corridor place type is going to buffer the neighborhood place type from a Center. Multiple centers in our place types - neighborhood center is typically at the intersection of multiple neighborhood corridors or hubs of activity. Scale changes with city neighborhoods, corridors and centers which may be denser with more activity.

Lance explained that the comprehensive plan gives guidance to private sector development so that they can determine if their development is compatible with the place type identified in the development area.

Lance clarified that the neighborhood traditional place type is the most common type in the city and can be seen on the map in light yellow; corridors are largely located along the arterial roadways; purple areas are for industrial or institutional areas, and the Rock Road corridor isolates higher uses.

The Planning Commission had several questions about the Comprehensive Plan:

- Does the comprehensive plan go across 254? The land use does in certain areas- place types are predicted through the city's area of influence or the extraterritorial jurisdiction. Rural neighborhood is housing that doesn't require public utilities such as a farm, five-acre subdivision, etc.
- What are the two or three things that are different between our previous plan and this plan? What two or three ways were you surprised at the input that maybe went in a different direction from the previous plan? Previous plan was in 2018- Master Growth Plan- it only looked at future land use and it didn't have any value statements. Major difference it used the traditional way of looking at land use such as single-family residential, etc. Development patterns were similar between the plans. Water and sewer plans were developed ahead of the comprehensive plan so that information could be used to assess costs of service and return on investment as the city continues to grow. The community had a desire for different modes of transportation-they want to safely move around our community without a vehicle. The city has good potential for off street trails utilizing the floodplain areas as pathways. Any future option for a rail to trail option could be utilized in the future if changes occur in the use of the railroad tracks. Trains will continue to use the tracks in the foreseeable future.
- Commission felt the plan was well put together graphically and it is user friendly so it can be used.
- Anything surprise you when meeting with the various groups? Alternative transportation was surprising across all groups. It not surprising to hear that there was confusion about the identity of the city. People expressed the need for grocery stores and restaurants, but don't really want to grow. Many people want the small-town feel, but also the large city services. City will need to navigate these needs.

- Is the City lacking in services? Land use was analyzed, and the City is 90% primarily residential. 0.8% of land use in Bel Aire is currently commercial use.
- Comprehensive plan will help the city make decision on what and how to develop in the future. The plan is a 10-year plan
- Was there any discussion about working with or looking at the plans from Metropolitan Area Planning Commission (MAPC)? This wasn't assessed in detail but did look at where they are projecting employment and housing areas. Looked at Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's (WAMPO) transportation plan to influence the plan.
- Does Wichita have any plans for East of Bel Aire? Unknown currently. Generally, they will face the need for services in that area.
- It is surprising that Bel Aire has a high rate of not-for-profit land uses in the City.
- Some concern that when the Commission reviews a case, preliminary plat and final plat we may ask for a reduction in lots to allow for green space, which the Commission doesn't have the authority to do that, so there is no enforcement.
- If it shows up on the master plan for more green space, how does that get implemented or steered that way? One way is to review zoning and subdivision regulations, building codes and policies around funding developments to steer towards implementing this vision. Developers and designers are always looking at the codes, so the city needs to ensure that codes reflect what we want to see happen. The other way is how we encourage development patterns through policies- City might want to participate in funding developments in a different way if they utilize the comprehensive plan vision.

Commissioner Jordan opened the Public Hearing:

- Donnis McPhaul- 7901 E. Oaktree Lane, Kechi, KS 67067. On the land use map in the orange area- what is the street running east/west? There is no street on the top of the orange area. Rock road area says city neighborhood- where does it stop the city neighborhood north between 254 and 53rd St.? Where does the orange area stop? The area extends Northwest Magnet anything above that is outside of Bel Aire's jurisdiction. The Comprehensive Plan covers only what is in Bel Aire.
- Jerry Hamilton, 7200 E. Oak Tree Ln. Kechi, KS- When you talk about your identity people are starting to call Bel Aire "Duplex City". Stated that he believes that Bel Aire has enough duplexes.

Commissioner Jordan closed the Public Hearing

Commission Discussion- Steering development is outside what the Planning Commission can control, and this is what the City Council can determine. Codes could assist as the Planning Commission hears cases. When the Secretary provides a staff report, one of the criteria in the "Golden Factors" is how the case is evaluated against the comprehensive plan. The Planning Commission will see comments both on how the case fits and how it doesn't fit within the comprehensive plan. This is one of several criteria the case is evaluated against.

Motion: Commissioner Matzek moved to adopt the Resolution to Adopt the Bel Aire 2035 Comprehensive Plan as presented and recommend that the Governing Body approve the Plan by publication of an Ordinance per K.S.A. 12-747(b). Commissioner Roths seconded the motion. ***Motion carried 4-0.***

B. Consideration of an Ordinance to Amend the Bylaws of the Planning Commission

Paula Downs, Secretary stated that the Commission has seen the Bylaws a few times and all suggestions have been included in the document. The bylaws were shared with Mayor Benage, and he had a few suggestions that were changed in the document.

The following changes were made:

- Removed language on line 35- “such removal and” – only appointments will require the consent of the City Council.
- Line 42 - Added language for appointment- Policies and Procedures for Appointment and Removal of Members of the Planning Commission shall be in accordance with Ordinance 357.
- Line 178- update language-.....reasonable notice as to date, time, place, manner and purpose for the meeting shall be given by the chairperson to the Secretary at least five (5) business days before the meeting by hand delivery.
- Line 181- Commission members and the Governing Body shall be notified by the Secretary (vs. Chairperson), including all persons designated to receive agendas on a regular basis.
- City of Bel Aire official city newspaper is the city website.
- Language was added that said the Planning Commission will review every three years, but changes can be made at any time should updates need to be made.

City Attorney stated that the Planning Commission will approve a resolution per statute and not an ordinance as stated in the motion language.

Motion: Chairman Jordan moved to Adopt the Resolution to Amend the Bylaws of the Planning Commission As Presented and recommend that the Governing Body Approve the Amended Bylaws. Commissioner Matzek seconded the motion. ***Motion carried 4-0.***

C. Public Hearing on ZON-25-01: Zone change request in the City from a Neighborhood Commercial, Office and Retail District “C-1” to a Planned Unit Development Residential District “R-PUD” to create the Lycee Addition R-PUD, generally located at the East side of Rock Road and ¼ mile North of 53rd Street North, Bel Aire, Sedgwick County, Kansas

Chairman Jordan read the case checklist:

- Disqualification Declared & Quorum Determined- Chairman Jordan “let the record reflect that no one was disqualified”.

- Chairman Jordan declared that proper notification was given.
- Ex parte communication- Chairman Jordan “let the record reflect no ex parte communication was received prior to the agenda item”.

Paula Downs, Secretary, stated that the case was before Planning Commission previously and the overview of each time the case appeared at the Planning Commission and City Council is set out in the staff report. The final plat for Lycee appeared at the February 2022 Planning Commission meeting with a Planned Unit Development (PUD) agreement and updated site plan. Lycee appeared at the April 5, 2022, City Council meeting and the final plat, PUD and development agreements were approved.

Previous change in zoning had not been formally approved in the proper manner- a zoning case should have been filed and an Ordinance developed and approved. The change in zoning needed to be an R-PUD which addresses the change in zoning and provides for an R-PUD Preliminary Plat document with PUD language vs. a separate PUD Agreement.

The PUD agreement sets out Parcel 1, the commercial lot and Parcel 2, the R-6 residential lots. The general provisions set out how the area will be developed, and they have set out the relief from code they are seeking. On pages 3-4 of the staff report it sets out zoning relief they are seeking. It will have what the code requires and what the case is asking for. The applicant will further define the development and answer questions.

The staff report also includes the review criteria that staff are recommending with the key review criteria (Golden Factors) of 2, 5, 7, 8 and that the case be approved with conditions listed in review criteria 10.

Phil Meyer, Baughman & Company, owner’s representative and Craig Sharp, applicant. Reviewed the R-PUD plat text. Mr. Meyer set out the following items to ensure the Planning Commission is clear on what they are asking for:

- Maximum lot coverage for Parcel 2 is currently at 65%. Might want to make it 70% in case a sidewalk or something is required to be added. City zoning code sets the maximum lot coverage at 30%.
- Site plan discussion for parcel 2:
 - Lot 1 Units:
 - garage is in the back
 - front doors face Rock Road
 - This housing is different from the previous plan from Greg Hiser
 - Lot 2 Units:
 - front doors face west
 - Garage and driveway up front
 - Lot 3:
 - No garages

- PUD Agreement #5- Uses within the parcels:
 - Uses for the parcel have not changed
 - C-2 and C-1 uses that include restaurant, food, etc. This hasn't changed
 - Greg Hiser owns this lot and wants to continue along those lines. His idea was to build a wine bar.
 - Greg Hiser's vision for housing on parcel 2 was single. professionals, however, the current plan is not directed this way.
- PUD Agreement #7- Lighting
 - Multiple units being built
 - Don't want light poles
 - Will use the buildings to light up areas
 - Will require parking lot poles relief. Lighting will be on the buildings- garages to light up the parking lots
- PUD Agreement #9- Landscaping
 - Asking for a waiver from landscaping
 - Parcel 1- will have two (2) street trees along Rock Rd. With power lines and the pipeline, it is difficult to install landscaping- have a very small landscape window.
 - Parcel 2- will have five (5) street trees on Lycee and Rock Rd. seven (7) street trees with eight (8) ornamentals inside the interior of front door and parking areas. Asking for a waiver for other items listed in code.
- PUD Agreement #12- Parking
 - Parking will be based on the multi-family designation- two (2) spaces per living unit like the property to the East.
 - The site offers 2.7 spaces per unit.
 - This is viewed as multi-family because it is multiple units on one lot.
- Units:
 - Clarification: the site will have two (2) duplexes, and the rest are four-plexes. The prior plan were all duplexes.
 - Each unit is either two (2) or three (3) bedrooms
 - Four-plexes:
 - Lots 1 & 2 there is a tri-plex and two four-plexes.
 - Lot 3- is a quad-plex where the units are stacked- exterior steps for two (2) units on top and two (2) units on bottom.
 - There are no basements in the units.
 - Lots 1 and 2 are single units' side-by-side
 - Grass will be in the open units. Along Rock Rd., in front of the units could do more landscaping on the East, but there is a nice hedgerow and there are utilities in the easement
 - Greg Hiser still wants to do a wine bar on parcel 1- very small lot size of building and parking lot is very limited.

Applicant shared that the main difference now and before are the update of the unit styles and the three-plex and four-plex. There are now three (3) different types of units. Applicant confirmed that he will continue to own the units.

The Planning Commission had concerns about the lighting for the site would come from building mounted fixtures which could shine light into units across from each other's windows. To prevent that, lighting is on the building would need to be aimed a different way. Commission asked applicant what kind of light will be shining on the unit across from each building. The applicant stated that building lighting can be angled and shaded so light can be controlled where it goes. Applicant stated that they can get better lighting on the building than on poles. Lighting will be placed on the ends of building, and they don't face windows, and they will all have garage lights and porch lights on the units. Heights and angles of lighting can be well controlled. Commission acknowledged that the 29th and Greenwich apartments have building lights and no poles and the complex is well-lit. Applicant shared that poles add more clutter to the site.

Planning Commission discussed the lot coverage percentage for the site. Applicant explained that parcel 1 has all the pipeline area in it. Commission discussed that if you take the whole PUD area (parcels 1 and 2), you won't be at a high lot coverage percentage- it would be approximately 43%. The Secretary stated that each lot is calculated individually or per parcel. The Secretary stated that the R-6 zoning district doesn't set out anything different lot coverage percentages between single-family and multi-family units. Lot coverage is calculation includes total lot size minus structures and pavement. Commission suggested that they might need to consider the entire area related to lot coverage

Commission stated that the site appears to be like an apartment complex that is broken up but done well.

Applicant confirmed that the square footage of the east units are 1170 s.f. and the rest of the units are in the 1450 s.f. range. Units in the middle have a one car garage and units on Rock Rd. have two-car garages. Updates on the R-PUD Preliminary Plat have been corrected and parcel 2 is 72,030 s.f. which creates the 65% lot coverage.

Chairman Jordan opened the public hearing:

- Carla Hamilton, 7200 E. Oak Tree Ln Kechi, KS- Comprehensive plan map was on the screen and Ms. Hamilton asked about the "orange" area-
 - Went from duplex to apartments now and we'll probably have playground and other stuff- is that right. Developer responded and stated there would be no playground
 - Don't know what it looks like- so is this Section 8 housing- is that what it is? Developer answered "no".
 - Do you have pictures of the development?- Developer didn't have pictures

- What about the traffic on Rock Road- with school and existing apartment complex and with more apartments- are there any considerations on what is going to happen? Commission stated that the area is suited for this type of development. Development doesn't empty onto Rock Road directly
- Donnis McPhaul, 7901 E. Oak Tree Ln, Kechi, KS 67067
 - Where is this development in relation to Apartments? Development is West of the apartments.
 - How many tri-plexes and four-plexes are there? There are eight (8) four-plexes and two (2) three-plexes.
 - Where is the wine bar? Wine Bar location is on Rock Road North of the housing development.
 - Where is entrance to development? Entrance is off Lycee and not Rock Road.
- Jerry Hamilton, 7200 Oak Tree Ln, Kechi KS.
 - Is there a difference between single-family vs. multi-family zoning districts? Bel Aire has several types of zoning districts in the city.
 - Mr. Hamilton would like to see single family homes along Rock Rd.
 - There is an abundance of duplexes
 - It would be good to have single family homes around the school

Chairman Jordan closed the Public Hearing

With regards to written communications Chairman Jordan stated, "let the record reflect no written communications have been received".

Applicant had no final comments but did share that the price range of leasing the units are \$1450 - \$1600. The units are an urban feel, and they are also bigger than duplexes.

Commissioner Matzek stated that he was concerned about the nearby single family large lots with this development be near. He asked what the status of Integra is, and it was confirmed by the Secretary that there was currently no status on that project. Commissioner Matzek has concerns about Rock Road traffic with the higher density development. He further stated that commercial use is 0.8% in the City and this development is now taking away additional parcels for commercial development with this development getting closer to the City Center concept on our comprehensive plan.

Commissioner Roths stated that this is an upgrade, and this is a different style. It will influence other development to not just build duplexes. More cutting-edge type development.

Commissioners cited, from the staff report, Golden Factors: 1, 3, 6, 2, 5, 10 as criteria to support the case. There are conditions recommended by staff for landscaping and trash enclosures. Planning Commission would need to use motion language #2 "approved with modifications" to include recommendations listed within #10 of the staff report.

Chairman Jordan stated that the case will be forwarded to the Governing Body with the Planning Commission recommendation and a written summary of the hearing for consideration at their regular meeting on Tuesday, September 2, 2025. He further stated that protest petitions against the case may be received by the City Clerk for 14 days after tonight, August 28, 2025, at 4:30 p.m.

Motion: Commissioner Roths moved, having considered the evidence at the hearing and the factors to evaluate the application, I move we recommend to the City Council, that the zone change request from Neighborhood Commercial, Office and Retail District “C-1” to a Planned Unit Development Residential District “R-PUD” in ZON-25-01 be approved with modifications, based on findings: recommendation #10 listed in staff report, as recorded in the summary of this hearing. Chairman Phillip Jordan seconded the motion. ***Motion carried 4-0.***

D. Overview of Zoning Case Script

Maria Schrock, City Attorney, provided an overview of the Zoning Case Checklist.

Primary and crucial duty of PC is holding the public hearing. The hearing is not only provided to hear public comments, but also to satisfy Kansas statutes. When holding a public hearing it is important to be consistent each time. All elements included in the “script” or checklist is to ensure that we address each element of the state statute and that everyone in the room is informed of key items. The benefit of the checklist reminds us to let the record show that commissioners did not disqualify themselves. When we close the public hearing we are reflecting in the minutes that there is no further discussion from the public and it can be reflected in the minutes. This announcement about closing the hearing then lets the public know no additional comments can be made and the minutes are clear. The minutes of the meeting are forwarded to the governing body, and they are required to go back to the minutes and the minutes capture everything including all comments. They are the total record of everything that occurred, and all elements considered by the Commission to make good decisions. The checklist helps make sure that everything is included in the minutes and that they are a fair and accurate depiction of what occurred at the meeting. The checklist is 3 pages and includes all the required elements and in what order for the public hearing. It is not required that the chairperson go through the checklist, any Commissioner can read the checklist especially if there are multiple items that require the checklist on an agenda.

Lawsuits can be filed and having this checklist read into the minutes helps create a record of what happened during the meeting. Checklist makes sure we follow the statutes, especially for the public hearing. We are expanding the depth of the minutes and creating more detailed information about what happened during the meeting. Moving forward the Commission meeting minutes will be more in depth moving. This is a checklist and not a script because we don’t want to give any indication that the Commission is being told how to vote or how to deliberate. This checklist doesn’t contain any information related to that.

Commission asked if they have to use the Golden Factors? The statute does not require the use of the Golden Factors. A case came through that provided a list of factors- state supreme case encouraged planning commissions to use these factors and add additional factors that may be unique to your community. The factors provide a consistent list of things we consider to be fair to every applicant so there is no appearance of being discriminatory or arbitrary. Not required but encouraged. Factors are a way for Commissioners to share their thinking about why they voted yes or no on a case.

Commission asked if they are we protected as Commissioners from lawsuits? The Planning Commission gets authority from Kansas statutes which is to abide by the zoning regulations and subdivision regulations that show that you are making decisions based on specific regulations. If a commissioner or the commission says that “I’m not going to abide by the regulations” that would indicate that they are operating outside the scope of their authority. Providing rationale of a decision is all that is required when making decisions on deviations from the codes.

Action: No action required; for discussion and review only.

E. Overview of Voting on Planning Commission Minutes

Maria Schrock, City Attorney, provided an overview of voting on Planning Commission minutes.

When you receive the agenda packet go through the minutes and confirm that it appears to be a fair and accurate depiction of what occurred during the meeting. Feel free to take notes during the meeting and compare them to the draft minutes and provide any updates. By voting to approve the minutes, the Commission is saying we’ve reviewed them, and they accurately reflect what occurred during the meeting. Minutes will be relied upon for actions. The Chairman, Vice Chairman or the Senior Commissioner may be the person signing the minutes after any given meeting. Commission is encouraged to keep notes and compare them to ensure accuracy.

Commission requested minutes to be provided earlier than the following month to recall and ensure their accuracy. Secretary will provide minutes within 10 days after the meeting. Commissioners then could provide updates prior to the next meeting via emails.

Action: No action required; for discussion and review only.

VII. Approval of the Next Meeting Date.

Commissioner Stuart will not be in attendance for the next meeting

Motion: Chairman Jordan moved to approve the date of the next meeting: September 11, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. Commissioner Matzek seconded the motion. ***Motion carried 4-0.***

VIII. Current Events

A. Upcoming Agenda Items:

Secretary shared that on September 2nd an Ordinance appointing the Planning Commission as the Board of Zoning Appeals will be on the City Council's agenda.

That approval will then result in bylaws being developed and shared with the Planning Commission. Bylaws will closely resemble the PC Bylaws.

1. Board of Zoning Appeals Bylaws
2. Board of Zoning Appeals- Types of Cases

B. Upcoming Events:

1. August 30 – Tree Board Park Clean-up | Alley Park 8-10 a.m.
2. September 1 – City Offices Closed for Labor Day
3. September 27 – Tree Board Park Clean-up | Bel Aire Rec Center 8-10 a.m.
4. October 4 – Fall Curbside Clean-Up

IX. Adjournment

Motion: Commissioner Roths moved to adjourn. Commissioner Matzek seconded the motion.
Motion carried 4-0.

STAFF REPORT

DATE: 08/08/2025

TO: Bel Aire Planning Commission
FROM: Paula Downs
RE: Bel Aire 2035 Comprehensive Plan

STAFF COMMUNICATION	
FOR MEETING OF	8/14/2025
CITY COUNCIL	
INFORMATION ONLY	

SUMMARY: Bel Aire 2035 Comprehensive Plan

Background:

The city placed notification on the City of Bel Aire’s website as required by city code. The affidavit of publication is provided. The comprehensive plan required notification of public hearing which was made on July 24, 2025.

In 2023, the City initiated a project to create a new comprehensive plan that describes a vision and framework for the community’s development over the next 10 years. The document will serve as a roadmap for adopting new policies and initiatives that achieve its identified vision. The comprehensive plan will assist the City Council in making well-informed decisions regarding land use and capital improvements.

The plan will complement zoning regulations, development codes, capital improvement programs and other city processes.

Planning Process:

Phase 1: Community Assessment

The first phase included a review of previous planning documents and policies, land use conditions, demographic trends, and local development opportunities and constraints.

Phase 2: Community Engagement

Although identified as a specific phase of the planning process, community engagement was carried out throughout the entire project calendar. A series of stakeholder group events and listening sessions, pop-up community events, and City leadership engagement were prioritized to ensure the planning vision created is reflective of diverse community voices.

Phase 3: Planning

Following the community assessment and initial phases of the community engagement process, considerable time and effort were invested to establish a community vision. Once the vision was identified, the planning team worked to develop community goals, policies, and strategies through continued analysis and community dialogue.

Phase 4: Refine, Adopt, & Implement

During this phase, the final review of the plan occurred, followed by the official plan adoption process.

Plan Organization:

The Bel Aire 2035 Comprehensive Plan is organized into three sections and three appendices.

Section 1: Section explains how the Plan came to be, why it is necessary, and how it should be integrated into daily decisions. Of interest is the Community History visual.

Section 2: Describes the value statements and goals for the Plan. Value Statements are as follows:

- a. Bel Aire's Non-Residential Environment Will Enhance the Quality of Life for All Residents and Visitors Alike. Value includes seven (7) goals.
- b. Bel Aire's transportation system will be safe, enhance the aesthetic appreciation of the City, and provide efficient options for all transportation modes. Value includes nine (9) goals.
- c. Bel Aire's parks and recreation system will provide first class spaces and programming for all ages and abilities. Value includes six (6) goals.
- d. Bel Aire's built environment will communicate a distinct identity to create cohesion, increase community pride, and attract residents, businesses, and visitors. Value includes eight (8) goals.
- e. Bel Aire will concentrate on sustainable growth through smart investments and community communication. Value includes eight (8) goals.
- f. Bel Aire will be a destination of choice for people at all stages of life. Value has six (6) goals.

Section 3: Provides the Plan's recommendations related to future land use and the built environment. This section delivers recommendations to guide Bel Aire as the City works to achieve this Plan's vision.

The **Appendices** cover detailed background information that was considered comprehensively to form the Plan.

Appendix A: An in-depth assessment of the community that includes a snapshot of where the City is now. It includes information on:

- Existing land use
- Existing Zoning
- Community facilities and services
- Parks and open space
- Transportation and mobility
- Environmental features
- Utilities
- Demographics
- Housing characteristics
- Property valuations
- Population characteristics; and
- Economic development profile.

Appendix B: Summaries of relevant plans and studies including:

- Comprehensive Development Plan Update 2014 – 2035
- Master Plan for Community Growth
- Parks Master Plan
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan
- Sewer Master Plan
- Water Master Plan
- Water and Wastewater Options Assessment- Phase 1; and
- Community Survey

Appendix C: A full recap of the community engagement events and findings

- Fall Festival Pop-Up Event (10.21.2023)
- City Leadership Work Session (05.14.2024)
- Stakeholder Session: Bel Aire Utility Advisory Committee (07.24.2024)
- Stakeholder Session: Bel Aire Tree Board (07.29.2024)
- Stakeholder Session: Bel Aire Seniors (08.16.2024)
- Stakeholder Session: Bel Aire Bike Walk (08.22.2024)
- Stakeholder Session: Bel Aire Lions Club (09.18.2024)
- Stakeholder Session: Bel Aire Chamber of Commerce (09.19.2024)
- City Leadership Work Session #2 (02.11.2025)
- City Leadership Work Session #3 (05.13.2025)

Planning Commission Review:

Planning Commission has been involved in community engagement events and provided input into the plan. Current discussion is to provide any modifications to the plan you feel is appropriate.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommend that the comprehensive plan be approved with any appropriate modifications identified by the Planning Commission.

(Notification Posted on the City of Bel Aire Website, the designated official City newspaper for the City of Bel Aire on July 24, 2025)

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN AND TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED:

Notice is Hereby Given that on August 14, 2025, the City of Bel Aire Planning Commission will consider the Bel Aire 2035 Comprehensive Plan in the order placed on the agenda after 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber at City Hall in Bel Aire, Kansas:

Pursuant to Kansas Statute 12-747, the City of Bel Aire will hold a public hearing to discuss and receive input on the proposed Bel Aire 2035 Comprehensive Plan. This plan outlines the long-term vision for the growth and development of our community.

You may appear at this time either in person or by agent or attorney, if you so desire, and be heard on the matter. After hearing the views and wishes of all the persons interested in the case, the Planning Commission may close the hearing and consider a recommendation to the Governing Body, which, if approved under the City Zoning and Sub- Division regulations, would be effectuated by city code. The public hearing may be recessed and continued from time to time without notice.

DATED this 23 day of July 2025.

/s/ Paula L. Downs
Bel Aire Planning Commission Secretary



AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

State of Kansas, Sedgwick County, ss:

Melissa Krehbiel, City Clerk

Being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

That I, Melissa Krehbiel, City Clerk of the City of Bel Aire, Kansas, has published the attached notice on the City of Bel Aire website, www.belaireks.gov, which website is designated as the official City newspaper for the City of Bel Aire, Kansas by Charter Ordinance No. 25, effective August 6, 2024.

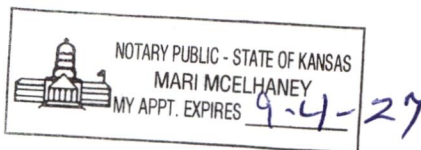
That the attached Notice of Public Hearing- Bel Aire 2035 Comprehensive Plan is a true copy thereof and was published on such website beginning on the 24th day of July, 2025.



Signature

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 29th day of July 2025.

(seal)





Notary Public

City of Bel Aire
Melissa Krehbiel – City Clerk
7651 East Central Park Avenue, Bel Aire, Kansas 67226
316-744-2451
www.belaireks.gov

Public hearing 2025.08.14

(Notification
Posted on the
City of Bel Aire
Website, the
designated
official City
newspaper for
the City of Bel
Aire on July 24,
2025)

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DATED this _23_____ day of July 2025.

/s/ Paula L. Downs
Bel Aire Planning Commission Secretary