Stevenson Planning Commission Statement of Purpose

October 11, 2021

The purpose of the Planning Commission is:

To study and plan for the physical development and needs of the community through comprehensive planning initiatives;

To consider the community's Cornerstone Principles (High Quality of Life, Natural/Scenic Beauty, Healthy Economy, Active Waterfront) when developing land use plans, development standards and ordinances, and establishing goals and policies for future development;

To thoughtfully review all development proposals (whether public or private) fairly, openly and on their merits;

To provide the Mayor and City Council with sound advice and guidance concerning development proposals and community planning matters;

To be receptive to the community's directions and changes and to be willing to reexamine plans, procedures and rules so they address the present;

To be well informed and in close touch with the staff, to have high expectations and to remain independently critical;

To perform such other powers and duties specified in RCW 35A.63 or assigned to the Commission by ordinance of the City Council.

Bylaws

City of Stevenson Planning Commission

We, the members of the Planning Commission of the City of Stevenson, State of Washington, pursuant to Ordinance 1029 passed on June 18th, 2009 by the City of Stevenson, do hereby adopt, publish and declare the following bylaws:

Article I – Membership, Terms and Vacancies

- A. City residency is required for four of the Commission's five positions. City residency is not required for the fifth position and may be filled by an individual residing elsewhere in Skamania County and having some business or other interest in the planning and development of Stevenson.
- B. In the case of a vacancy of a Commission position, after advertising for interested parties in accordance with SMC 2.12.020(E), the Commission shall submit the name of a candidate to the Mayor and City Council for approval.
- C. The six (6) year terms of office shall be reviewed annually at the time of election of officers.
- D. Ex officio members appointed to the Commission by the Mayor are non-voting members, except as discussed in RCW 35A.63.020.

<u>Article II – Organization, Meetings and Records</u>

A. Officers

- 1. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Commission shall be elected as the first order of business at the first meeting in January of each year.
- 2. In the case of vacancy of the Commission member serving as the Chair or Vice-Chair, the vacancy shall be filled following an election at the next regular meeting of the Commission.

B. Meetings

- 1. All meetings of the Commission shall be open to the public.
- 2. Pursuant to Resolution 243a adopted by the City of Stevenson, regular meetings shall be held at 6:00 PM on the second Monday of each month. At the discretion of the Chair, meetings lasting later than 8:30 may be continued from such a meeting to a stated later date.
- 3. Official or continued meetings may be adjusted to avoid conflict with a major or legal holiday. Special meetings may be called by the Chair as provided by RCW 42.30.080.

- 4. Meeting location shall be at Stevenson City Hall unless prior public notice of an alternate location is advertised.
- 5. Meetings may be cancelled due to lack of an agenda with the approval of the Chair.
- 6. Official action of the Commission shall be made by vote, and only at official meetings.

C. Quorum

1. A quorum consists of a majority of the membership (excluding vacant seats). Actions are taken by the majority vote of the members present, a quorum being present. A member present may abstain from voting for cause.

D. Agenda

- Agendas will be finalized and made available by 12:00PM on the Thursday prior to the meeting. The agenda will be posted on the City's website and at City Hall and provided to the Commission in advance of the meeting to allow the Commission members an opportunity to review prior to the meeting.
- 2. The suggested format for the agenda is as follows:
 - a.Introduction of Invited Guests
 - b.Minutes
 - c. Public Comment Period
 - d.New Business
 - e.Old Business
 - f. Staff Reports
 - g.Discussion
 - h.Adjournment
- 3. The printed agenda of a regular meeting may be modified, supplemented or revised by the majority affirmative vote of the Commission members present. The agenda may be divided into sections and scheduled for continued meetings when it is apparent that one meeting will not be able to complete the eligible cases.

E. Attendance

- 1. Attendance at regular meetings is expected of all Commission members.
- Occasionally a Commission member will not be able to physically attend a meeting due to personal or work conflicts. Provided that the Commission member received a full meeting packet and is prepared, interested, and able to participate in the meeting, the Chair may allow the member to participate via conference call, video conference, or similar electronic mechanism.
- 3. Any member anticipating absence from an official meeting should notify staff in advance.
- 4. Any absence may be excused by the Chair even for an extended period. After three (3) consecutively missed regular meetings, the member will be contacted and asked to

reaffirm to their fellow Commission members their desire to remain on the Commission

F. Operation

- 1. Meeting operations are carried out according to RCW 42.30-Open Public Meetings, RCW 42.32-Meetings, and RCW42.36-Appearance of Fairness Doctrine—Limitations.
- 2. Under the Open Public Meetings Act the public must be allowed to attend Commission meetings, but the Act does not require the public be allowed to speak during Commission meetings. To foster both public participation and meeting efficiency, the Chair shall select one of the following public participation options prior to commencing any meeting or agenda item:
 - a.Option 1- Each speaker will be offered three (3) minutes to express their thoughts during the general public comment period and tree (3) minutes to comment during each public hearing period. Under certain circumstances the Chair may announce a change in a meeting's time limits. Speakers may not convey or donate their allotted time to another speaker. Written comments may also be submitted for the record.
 - b.Option 2- After being acknowledged by the Chair, any member of the public may participate in discussion throughout the meeting. Participants should keep comments brief, respectfully, and related to the agenda topic. Written comments may also be submitted for the record.
- 3. Certain decisions of the Commission, such as decisions on conditional uses, variances, and subdivision recommendations are quasi-judicial in nature. In these cases, the Commission acts "as if it were a judge" and must base its decisions on the "record" of the matter. The "record" consists of all testimony or comment presented at the hearing and all documents and exhibits that have been submitted. In quasi-judicial hearings, Commission members shall comply with all applicable laws and be guided by Appendix A of these bylaws.

G. Records

1. Official files and records of the Commission shall be maintained in accordance with the State records retention schedule.

H. Official Action

- 1. The Commission shall act as a body in making its decisions and in announcing them. The Chair or the Chair's designated spokesman will speak for the group in a public meeting.
- 2. All Commission discussions and motions may be guided by Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised at the Chair's discretion.
- 3. Method of presenting official recommendations to the City Council:

- a.An official recommendation to the City Council must be moved, seconded and passed by majority vote of the Commission.
- b.Official recommendations shall be recorded by staff in the Commission minutes.
- c. Official recommendations shall be transmitted to the City Council for their next scheduled meeting.
- d.Special reports or recommendations to the City Council may be made by a designated Commission member or staff person.
- e. The Chair or a member may be designated to represent the Commission at special functions, seminars or meetings of interest to the Commission.
- f. Minority reports may accompany any report or recommendation of the Commission to the City Council.

Article III – Committees

A. From time to time the Commission will identify the need for greater citizen participation on a wide variety of subjects. Advisory committees may be created in these instances to aid the Commission's decision making process. Advisory committees should contain at least one Commission member but shall never contain a quorum of the Commission.

<u>Article IV – Public Involvem</u>ent

- A. Certain decisions of the Commission (e.g., recommendations to adopt or amend plans, ordinances, standards or guidelines) are policy-based in nature. In these cases, the Commission acts in an advisory capacity on behalf of the community at-large.
- B. When undertaking a policy discussion, Commission members should establish a Public Involvement Plan guided by Appendix B of these bylaws.

<u>Article V – Public Relations</u>

- A. The Commission should, in most cases, defer to the City Council to represent the City in the press and other public spheres.
- B. If a Commission member appears on behalf of the Commission before another governmental agency, community organization, or through the media, for the purpose of commenting on an issue, the Commission member shall state the majority position of the Commission, if known, on such issues. Personal opinions and comments that differ from the Commission majority may be expressed if the Commission member clarifies that these statements do not represent the Commission's position.

C. Commission members shall have other Commissioner members' concurrence before officially representing any Commission member's views. As a matter of courtesy, any letters to the editor, interviews or other communication by a Commission member of a controversial nature that do not reflect the Commission's majority opinion should be presented to the Commission and City Council prior to publication so that the Commission and Council members may be prepared.

<u>Article VI – Expenditures</u>

A. The expenditures of the Commission shall be within the budget appropriations for the Commission and with the approval by the Council.

Article VII – Duties and Powers of the Commission

A. Chair

- 1. Shall preside at all Commission meetings and have the powers generally assigned such office in conducting the meetings.
- 2. Shall see that the transaction of Commission business is in accord with law, ordinances, these Bylaws and Roberts' Rules of Order.
- 3. May appoint standing committees or special committees and assign one or more members to such committees.
- 4. Shall, at the opening of the hearing on each subject, state the purpose of the hearing and may read aloud any pertinent written communications contained in the case file. Prior to a presentation, the Chair may establish a time limit on discussion on any said subject.

B. Vice-Chair

1. Shall assume the duties and power of the Chair in the Chair's absence, vacancy or attendance by conference call.

C. City Staff

- 1. The staff shall ensure that the following tasks are accomplished:
 - a. Keep the minutes of all regular and special meetings of the Commission.
 - b. Give notice of all special meetings to all Commission members at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.
 - c. Prepare an agenda for all special and regular meetings.
 - d.Serve proper and legal notice of all public hearings.
 - e. Draft the routine correspondence of the Commission.
 - f. Maintain files of all studies, plans, reports, recommendations and official records of the Commission.

g. Maintain records of Commission expenses.

- The Community Development Director shall attend all regular meetings of the Commission unless excused. If the Director has an excused absence, a staff person shall be designated to attend in the Director's absence. The Director may make recommendations to the Commission and take part in discussions but shall have no vote.
- 3. The City Attorney may be invited to attend certain quasi-judicial or other meetings to provide opinions, answer legal questions, or ensure the Commission adheres to appropriate legal procedures.
- D. Commission Voting Members
 - 1. Shall informally elect a Chair Pro-tem in the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair.

<u>Article VIII – Conflict of Interest</u>

A. Any member of the Commission who, in that member's own opinion, has an interest in any matter before the Commission that would tend to prejudice the member's actions shall so publicly indicate and shall step down and refrain from voting.

<u>Article IX – Amendments</u>

A.	These Bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting by the members of the Planning Commission; provided that the proposubmitted in writing at the previous regular meeting.	
Ad	opted in regular session this day of,,	_·
		Chair
		Secretary

Ayes:

October, 2021

Nays:

<u>Appendix A – Public Hearing Procedures Script for Quasi-Judicial Issues</u>

The following represents a recommended procedure as a general instruction for the conduct of quasi-judicial hearings and may be followed or departed from in the Chair's discretion. Failure to follow this recommended procedure shall not constitute a *prima facie* failure of Due Process.

Opening

- The Chair shall open the public hearing by stating the name of the application.
- The Chair shall direct any persons wishing to be heard to sign in on the sign-in sheet.

Rules of Order Presented by the Chair

- The Chair shall explain that the public hearing will proceed in an orderly manner and ask that members of the public respect the process.
- The Chair shall ensure that everyone will be given an opportunity to be heard. The Chair shall ask that all comments be made standing, at a speaker's rostrum if available, or in an otherwise noticeable fashion. All speakers must first give their name and address for the officially recorded transcript of the hearing. The Chair shall further explain that if there is an appeal, the court must make its decision on the basis of what is said at this meeting.
- The Chair shall ascertain if anyone will require special accommodation in order to speak so that arrangements can be made.
- In fairness to all in attendance, each person wishing to speak will be given an opportunity to address the Commission. Depending on the number of people in attendance, the Chair may limit the initial period of time allowed. If additional time is needed, the Chair may allow additional time after all interested parties have had an opportunity to speak.
- There should be no demonstrations (clapping, cheering, booing) during or at the conclusion of anyone's presentation.
- This public hearing is the time for presentation of testimony, not an opportunity for debate between or among the presenter, the applicant, or the Commission.
- The Commission is interested in promoting an orderly public hearing to give all persons in attendance an opportunity to be heard.

Appearance of Fairness and Conflicts of Interest

- Quasi-judicial actions are defined as actions of the Commission which determine legal rights, duties, or privileges of specific parties in a hearing. The public hearing for these actions must fair in three respects: form, substance and appearance.
- All Commission members should give consideration as to whether they have:
 - o A demonstrated bias or prejudice for or against any party to the proceedings;
 - A direct or indirect monetary interest in the outcome of the proceedings;

- o A prejudgement of the issue prior to hearing the facts on the record; or
- Ex parte contact with any individual, excluding administrative staff, and whether the individual supports or opposes the issue.

Each Commission member must disclose whether any of the factors listed above are at issue and respond to the question "Do you have an Appearance of Fairness or Conflict of Interest issue or disclosure to make?

After making any such disclosures, the members in the audience are asked if there are any
objections to any Commission members' participation in the proceedings.

Order of Speaking Presented by the Chair

- Staff presentation;
- Request to staff in there were any written materials submitted and summary of any such materials:
- Comments from applicant;
- Comments from proponents;
- Comments from opponents;
- Comments from any others wishing to speak;
- Comments from applicants in response/rebuttal. New material may not be introduced;
- Response from staff to any subjects raised by any of the speakers, or any additional clarifications;
- Questions from Commission members to any speaker or staff person who made comment;
- The Chair may ask if anyone in the audience has any comments to clarify an item raised by a Commission member's questions. No new items can be presented nor should the speaker repeat testimony given previously. This is purely an opportunity for clarification.

Commission Discussion

- The Chair, making certain there is no further testimony, closes the public testimony portion of the hearing.
- Commission discussion is held Commission should consider discussing issues in terms of findings and potential conditions.
- Request for any further recommendations or comments from staff.
- Chair calls on the Commission members to make a motion (take action) or postpone. If action taken, Chair directs staff to prepare findings and decision.

<u>Appendix B – Public Involvement Framework</u>

The following represents a recommended procedure to evaluate and establish topic-specific public involvement plans. As used in this appendix, "Public Involvement" is an umbrella term incorporating a broad range of ways in which the Planning Commission interacts with the public. This range begins with the minimum requirements established by State statutes where information is shared in a uni-directional manner to ensure public awareness of Commission actions. The Public Involvement umbrella embraces bi-directional dialogue wherein the public informs decisions through their meaningful input. At another end of the range, Public Involvement could result in direct decision-making by the public via referendum to the voters. Along the way the term Public Involvement embraces other public participation methods, whether they are suggested in this appendix or not.

This Public Involvement Framework was recommended in summer 2021 by a subcommittee of the Planning Commission. The committee was composed of residents, property owners, Planning Commissioners, and City staff.

The Public Involvement Framework incorporates 7, non-linear, categories of action beginning with a "Call to Act". As appropriate within this framework the Planning Commission should "Conscientiously Select Public Involvement Methods" to "Define" the issue identified in the "Call", "Inform/Educate/Reach-Out" to the public about the issue, and "Engage" community stakeholders to exchange information on the issue. These conscientious efforts allow the Commission to "Refine" the issue based on information received, "Check-in" with the public after the issue is refined, and to eventually "Decide" on an action to address the "Call".

The intent of the Framework is to allow the Planning Commission to conscientiously evaluate each "Call to Action", right-size its approach to the action, and communicate its expectations and actions to the public. The non-linear aspect of the framework means that the Planning Commission can evaluate and establish independent Public Involvement expectations for each category in the framework and can reevaluate established expectations as necessary.

Documents assisting this conscientious effort include:

- Exhibit B.1 Visual Public Involvement Workflow Template. During any topic the Planning Commission chooses to address, this template can be edited and used to convey the established topic-specific public involvement plan and update its progress while the topic is being address.
- Exhibit B.2 Menu of Public Involvement Methods. This exhibit is not intended to be static. As time goes on, this menu of methods may be supplemented, refined, or edited without a formal amendment to the Planning Commission bylaws.

• Exhibit B.3 – Example Public Involvement Materials. Like the menu of methods, the example materials of this exhibit are not static. Dynamic updates to the example materials can be added at any time without amending these bylaws.

Framework Components

Component	<u>Actors</u>	Actions Actions
Call to Act		
The Call to Act is the instant when an issue is identified. The Call to Act can be considered the identification of an Issue or a Need . The Call results from a disturbance, an opportunity, a problem, a request, or any other catalytic moment when the Planning Commission is asked to act. Define the Issue	 The Caller can be anyone from the community: A City elected official A Planning Commissioner City staff Consultants A partner agency or interest groups, etc. 	Determine whether to answer the Call: Determine whether Issue or Need is accepted Assess City agency/ability to impact Assess City responsibility to impact Assess City capacity
Defining the Issue creates clarity by	The Planning	Determine Stakeholders:
exploring how the Call to Action was created and by whom, identifying who is driving and who is impacted, and identifying available information, observations, public concerns, and determining whether existing data is adequate or more data is required. Defining the issue leads to a reconsideration of whether to answer the Call. Doing so transforms Need into Purpose .	Commission identifies Potential Stakeholders as necessary. Potential Stakeholders include: Businesses City officials Developers Low Income and/or under represented Long-term residents New residents Those Privileged and Disadvantaged by the issue/topic Property Owners Renters, etc.	 Understand who the Caller represents Understand who benefits/suffers from the Issue or Need Understand who benefits/suffers from the Solution to the Issue or Need Propose Solutions Determine when a solution is proposed Determine who proposes solutions Determine how many solutions are proposed Select Public Involvement Strategies Assess City capacity to implement individual Public Involvement Methods. Establish who should be involved Select level of involvement (Inform, Educate, Engage, Ask) Select specific Pubic Involvement Methods (Exhibit B.2)
Inform, Educate, and Reach-Out to Pub		Make Materials Accessible,
Informing, Educating, and Reaching Out to Stakeholders provides <i>uni-</i> <i>directional information sharing</i> from	The Planning Commission and City staff activate Networks (e.g., SDA,	Understandable, Timely, and Compelling

the City to the Public. The sharing of information could be a preamble to the Engaging Stakeholders or could stand alone as a form of open governance. Informing, Educating, and Reaching-Out to the Public shares the Purpose with the community to generate greater Communal Understanding .	Volunteers, WAGAP, etc.) to help reach-out to identified Potential Stakeholders.	 Share simple information broadly Provide access to more detailed information Make available source documents and reference materials Surface Latent Stakeholders Provide opportunities for the Public-At-Large to become more involved
Engage Stakeholders		
Engaging Stakeholders provides bi- directional information exchange between the public and city staff/elected officials. Engaging Stakeholders results supplements Communal Understanding with Collective Wisdom.	The Planning Commission and City staff activate Networks to help engage identified Potential Stakeholders and previously Latent Stakeholders.	Match the Level of Engagement to the Need for Input and the Impact of Change. Share simple information broadly Provide access to more detailed information Make available source documents and reference materials Ensure Engagement is Multi-Faceted. Select specific Public Involvement Methods (Exhibit B.2) Solicit Input and Expertise Building upon Work of City Officials.
Refine		
Refining involves validating or reconsidering decisions made in earlier steps. Refining applies Communal Understanding and Collective Wisdom to the Purpose. If the issue is complex, refining may involve several iterations of earlier steps and/or offer widening ranges of options. At one end of this range, refining could even lead the Planning Commission to reconsider whether to answer the original Call to Act. Check-In	The Planning Commission and City staff respond to stakeholders based on input received.	Distill stakeholder input for Planning Commission to inform next steps and/or a decision.
Checking-In reconnects Stakeholders	The Planning Commission	Create a feedback loop to determine
with the Need and Purpose , and updates the Communal Understanding with the Collective Wisdom gained through implementation of the Public Involvement Plan.	and City staff re-activate networks, updating stakeholders on the issue's evolution through the Public Involvement efforts.	whether additional Public Involvement is necessary before a decision can be made. Respond to Stakeholders to Improve Upon or Help Inform the Final Decision.
Decide		
Deciding involves advancing an Action to address a Need the Purpose . The		Document the Decision Communicate the Decision Broadly

action should integrate the Collective	
Wisdom received through	
implementation of the Public	
Involvement Plan. Through Action a	
Need is addressed, the Seed of	
Community is born and the ground is	
prepared to receive the next Call.	

Exhibit B.1 – Visual Public Involvement Workflow Template

The following template can be customized to document the topic-specific Public Involvement Plans.

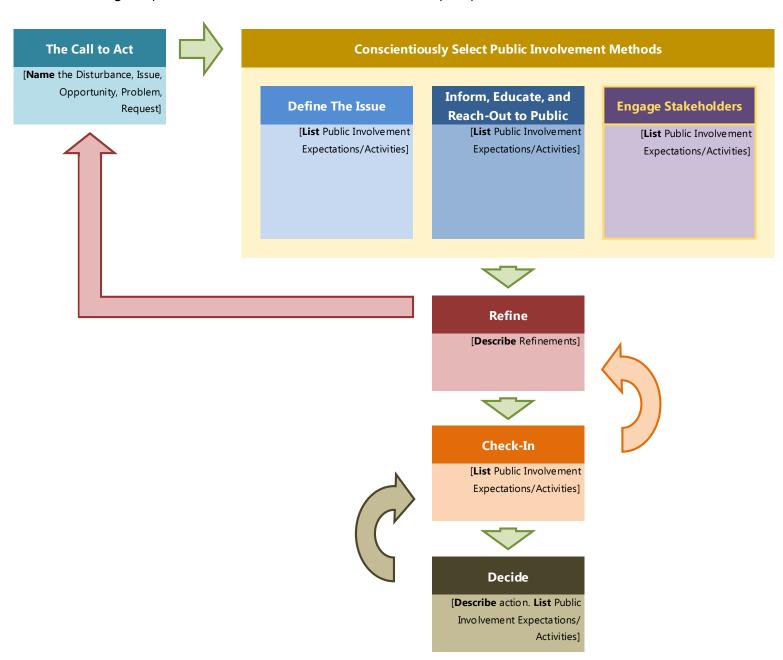


Exhibit B.2 – Menu of Public Involvement Methods.

This exhibit presents several public involvement methods. Some are simple, some more complex. A basic assessment of the impact and associated costs associated with each method is included. This list is dynamic and will grow according to more input and testing of methods.

The menu can be attached to early issue report as a tool for the Planning Commission and shared with the public to share expectations on each Public Involvement Plan.

In general, selected methods to Inform, Educate, and Reach-Out should provide an 1-month timeframe.

Method	Impact	Resource Need	Notes	Included in Plan?			
Methods to Inform, Educate, Reach-Out							
Physical Media (posters, informational flyers, newspaper ads)	L M H	\$ \$\$ \$\$\$	Consider posting on bulletin boards and around town (laundry, apartments, post office, workplaces, school/government/ semi-public spaces)	Y or N			
Targeted Media (postcards with links, invitations to participate)	L M H	\$ \$\$ \$\$\$		Y or N			
Requests for neighborhood/group participation	L M H	\$ \$\$ \$\$\$	Planning Commissioners and/or Staff	Y or N			
Electronic Media (Facebook page, nextdoor, websites of partners and City)	L M H	\$ \$\$ \$\$\$		Y or N			
Press Release, Interviews, Guest Editorial	L M H	\$ \$\$ \$\$\$		Y or N			
Sandwich Boards	L M H	\$ \$\$ \$\$\$	Consider placing at Stevenson Downtown Association office, front lawns	Y or N			
Guest appearances at events and meetings	L M H	\$ \$\$ \$\$\$	Planning Commissioners and/or Staff	Y or N			
Informal community and interest networks	L M H	\$ \$\$ \$\$\$		Y or N			
Concise, short and well written flyers delivered to resident's front door by volunteers	L M H	\$ \$\$ \$\$\$		Y or N			
Methods to Engage							
Public Workshops	L M H	\$ \$\$ \$\$\$	Accessible and welcoming to all	Y or N			
Survey Monkey	L M H	\$ \$\$ \$\$\$	Special attention to language and readability needed	Y or N			
Meet & Greets with staff or elected officials	L M H	\$ \$\$ \$\$\$	Requires data collected and staffing of elected, along with public notice	Y or N			
Council/Commissioner meetings with focused methods for input/dialogue	L M H	\$ \$\$ \$\$\$	Build upon Commission meetings and allow for back and forth between electeds and community. Add more time for PI (Public Involvement).	Y or N			

					Change physical arrangement. Actively promote/welcome PI	
Town Hall - debates or educational forums		M	Н	\$ \$\$ \$\$\$	Cross talk between electeds, experts, staff with Q&A from audience	Y or N
Story boards - data collection or voting	L	M	Н	\$ \$\$ \$\$\$	Placing story boards in key location to collect input about very specific things OR to get votes on X or Y preference Mimicking this on social media also	Y or N
Listania a sasisas hatuusa	1	N /I		ሶ	*Key to have right issue and right language	
Listening sessions between staff/electeds and public	L	M	Н	\$ \$\$ \$\$\$	Planning Commissioners and/or Staff	Y or N
Attend existing meetings of currently organized groups, events and board meetings.	L	M	Н	\$ \$\$ \$\$\$	Social service agencies, neighborhood groups, special interest networks, etc	Y or N
Attend large employers meetings (as applicable)	L	М	Н	\$ \$\$ \$\$\$	Planning Commissioners and/or Staff	Y or N
Pioneer articles from Council/Commission with key topics needing to be discussed and solicitation of questions for next issue to be answered	L	M	Н	\$ \$\$ \$\$\$		Y or N
Form task forces, interest groups, focus groups, etc	L	M	Н	\$ \$\$ \$\$\$	Planning Commissioners and/or Staff	Y or N
Pizza party/cook off - casual event	L	М	Н	\$ \$\$ \$\$\$	Planning Commissioners and/or Staff	Y or N
Postcards soliciting input	L	M	Н	\$ \$\$ \$\$\$		Y or N

Exhibit B.3 – Example Public Involvement Materials.

This exhibit presents examples of public involvement materials to effectively implement public involvement plans. These examples will change and supplements will be added in response to the implementation of topic specific public involvement plans.

List of Examples

• Flyer Example.

Flyer Example

ZONING - Your neighborhood could change
We will be discussing how it might change at a meeting next week. Please come.
Then we'd give the time and place where the meeting was going to be held.
Then we would have ended the flyer this way:
For more information on the proposed changes contact ______. Then we'd give three ways to contact this person.