

I. Call to Order

Members Present: Brittany Nevins, Alejandra Lopez, Autumn Crabtree

City Staff Present: Angela Aldieri, Elsie Goodrich

Guests Present: None

Call to Order by: Brittany Nevins

Meeting Start Time: 6:02pm

Minutes Recorded by Angela Aldieri

II. Public Comment

There were no members of the public present.

III. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion by: Autumn Crabtree

Second: Alejandra Lopez

Decision: Approved

IV. City Council Liaison Update

Councilor Goodrich thanked the commission for adjusting their schedule for the election last week. She went on to note that 24% of registered voters participated compared to 14% in 2024 and there were 81 new voter registration on election day. Councilor Goodrich highlighted Council action taken on a MOU with Downtown Winooski and new and updated position descriptions at their most recent meeting.

V. Inclusion & Belonging Commission Update

There was no member of the Inclusion & Belonging Commission present.

VI. Approve: Commission Officers

A. Secretary

Motion by: Alejandra Lopez

Second: Brittany Nevins

Decision: Approved

Notes: Autumn Crabtree volunteered to serve as secretary at future meetings.

VII. Discussion: Comprehensive Plan Open House Debrief

The Commission discussed the low turnout and limited public feedback received at the Economic Vitality open house. Discussion ensued regarding the challenges of conducting outreach without a dedicated staff person; whether separate meetings for each section are the best approach; and opportunities to reach a broader audience through combined sessions, varied meeting times, informal events, existing community gatherings, and local organizations. The greater participation at the Municipal Infrastructure open house was also discussed.

Emphasis was placed on making outreach accessible and intentional, including engaging non-English speakers, new Americans, young professionals, businesses, and others who may not typically participate in City meetings. Members also discussed the use of plain language, translation services, passive opportunities for feedback, and making surveys available through community organizations and local businesses. The Commission noted that the Comprehensive Plan is updated every eight years pursuant to state statute and is due for renewal in March 2027, and expressed a desire for greater opportunities for public input given the plan's eight-year life. It was noted that Ravi Venkataraman, Director of City Planning, has been connected with Melissa Corbin of Downtown Winooski to solicit input from the business community regarding the Economic Vitality section.

VIII. Other Business

There was no other business discussed

IX. Adjourn

Motion by: Autumn Crabtree

Second: Brittany Nevins

Meeting End Time: 6:41pm