

Chapter 23.124. CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

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23.124.010. Introduction.

The preparation of a comprehensive plan requires great amounts of time and involvement by the public if the plan is to be truly reflective of the people's needs and desires. Deschutes County was fortunate to have had such an extensive citizen involvement in the preparation of this plan. However, what is often forgotten is that continued public involvement is equally important in the updating and implementing of the comprehensive plan and its attendant ordinances.

Now that Deschutes County has prepared its comprehensive plan, it must involve people in a productive manner with the ongoing planning process. Therefore, the following goals have been prepared by the Planning Commission acting as the County Citizen Involvement Committee and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners.

(Ord. 2002-005 §1, 2002; Ord. 2000-017 §1, 2000; Ord. 86-067, 1986; PL-20, 1979)

23.124.020. Goals.

- A. To promote and maintain better communication between the community's various segments (i.e., governmental agencies, business groups, special districts and the general public).
- B. To provide the opportunity for the public to identify issues of concern and encourage their involvement in planning to addresses those issues.
- C. To serve as a liaison between elected and appointed bodies and citizens of the county.
- D. To provide educational opportunities for the people to learn about planning and how it may be used to assist their community and themselves.

(Ord. 2002-005 §1, 2002; Ord. 2000-017 §1, 2000; Ord. 86-067, 1986; PL-20, 1979)

23.124.030. Policies.

- A. To assure that county and appointed officials are aware of citizen needs and attitudes and to permit effective two-way communication, the County shall perform the following:
 - 1. Conduct surveys as needed regarding citizen needs, attitudes and characteristics;
 - 2. Sponsor workshops and presentations by known specialists and experts;
 - 3. Prepare pamphlets explaining routine planning procedures;
 - 4. Write and distribute information newsletters;
 - 5. Prepare and present slide shows and/or films on such topics as growth versus conservation, the subdivision process, and the usefulness of planning; and
 - 6. Make presentations to special groups and school children.
- B. The County Planning Commission will be the Citizen Involvement Committee to review and change the County's Citizen Involvement Program so as to ensure its continued efficiency and usefulness.
- C. Between updates, special committees representative of geographic areas or possessing special knowledge of specific topic shall be formed to assist with planning studies.
- D. The County Planning Commission shall be kept aware of the activities and results of the special committees and will be informed of studies and activities of the County Planning Division which will assist them in the role as advisors.
- E. Primary responsibility for coordination between the County, public, and other agencies shall be the county local coordinator. It shall also be the Planning Director's responsibility to assure the Planning Division studies are provided to members of the County Planning Commission.

- F. During each plan update process, a committee broadly representative of the county's areas and interests shall be formed. The actual make-up of the committee will be determined by the Board of County Commissioners based upon a report by the County Planning Director regarding the issues and concerns needing addressing during the update process. If during the update process, additional issues are raised, the Board of County Commissioners may change the composition of the update committee to assure those new concerns are adequately addressed.
- G. The plan update process shall occur at least every five years and be open to public view and involvement; public hearings to ascertain citizen views shall be held at the beginning and end of the process.
- H. The County may, as required, change its Citizen Involvement Program to assure public involvement and access to information at all stages of the planning process and provide for an efficient and effective planning program.

(Ord. 2002-005 §1, 2002; Ord. 2000-017 §1, 2000; Ord. 86-067, 1986; PL-20, 1979)