

Chapter I **CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The City of Boardman is located in northern Morrow County, adjacent to the Columbia River. The City lies 162 road miles east of Portland, along Interstate 84. The City has a current population of 1,560, with a full time administrative staff, and is governed by a Mayor and six member City Council elected by the citizens. In the early 1970's, the City Council established a Planning Commission consisting of seven appointed members. This was later changed to nine, allowing a maximum of two residents from outside the city limits.

The Planning Commission is charged with several tasks, including assisting the City Council formulate and update the City's Comprehensive Plan, assisting in the administration and interpretation of the City's implementing ordinances, the Development Code, and to serve as the City's Citizen Involvement Committee (CIC).

PAST PLANNING ACTIVITIES

The City retained a consultant in the early 1970's to assist with the development of a limited Comprehensive Plan when the Oregon State Legislature, in 1973, passed Senate Bill 100 leading to the creation of the Land Conservation and Development Commission and the formulation of the Oregon State Planning Goals. The Goals were formalized in late 1975 and the actual Statewide drive for acknowledgement of all 277 jurisdictions actually began in 1976. However, Boardman was already well on its way to completion of the State mandated task. In the Fall of 1974, a "Committee of the Future" was formed to recommend programs and policy guidelines relative to growth problems faced by the City. The Citizen Advisory Committee was also charged with making recommendations to the City Council and Planning Commission, concerning policies affecting Boardman's future. The selection process involved appointment by the Mayor of a cross-section of interested Boardman residents. This committee served as the Citizen Involvement Committee and initially contained seventeen members. However, because of practicality, the nine member Planning Commission has now been designated officially as the CIC.

Since the basic emphasis of the "701 Comprehensive Planning Study" and the LCDC Goals was to provide for the future, the Committee of the Future was assigned the task of assisting the Planners in formulation of study recommendations. Six meetings of the Committee were held to discuss the study elements and to ultimately approve the study contents and forward the recommendation to the Planning Commission and City Council. Total community involvement was achieved through the use of mailout questionnaires as a part of the housing and recreational needs survey. The City's Comprehensive Plan and Land Use regulations were adopted on March 16, 1976. Subsequent to that date, the City's plan and development ordinances were acknowledged to be in compliance with the Oregon Statewide Planning Goals on April 25, 1978. This is one of the earliest jurisdictions in the State to be acknowledged.

PERIODIC REVIEW

The City of Boardman last completed Periodic Review in 1988. Review of the City's Comprehensive Plan and implementing ordinances began in January of 1999 when the City received notification from the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) of approval of the City's proposed Work Program. Since January 1999, the City has endeavored to complete this Work Program. This Work Program included revisions to the City's Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances, development of a Transportation System Plan; establishment of Cooperative and Urban Service Agreements between the City and the Boardman Rural Fire District and the Boardman Parks and Recreation District. Additional tasks also include the provision of standards within this Comprehensive Plan and the City's Development Code for Goal 5 compliance.

COMMUNITY VISIONING

In order to facilitate the planning and review process within the City; a community visioning process was enacted in 1997. The first part of this process was the distribution of a two-page community questionnaire published in the North Morrow County Times in May of 1997. A total of 134 questionnaires were completed. The following is a summary of the results:

62% of the residents had lived in Boardman for more than five years with 29% living in the area for 1 to 5 years. Residents who lived in Boardman less than five years were attracted to live in Boardman either because of employment (60%); family (22%) or recreation/other (18%). Residents preferred the opportunity for jobs (63%), small community (63%) and rural lifestyle (62%) along with the recreation opportunities (53%) and the location as reasons to live in Boardman. Residents expressed concerns over the lack of shopping (90%); environmental hazards (58%) and lack of health care (47%). A majority of the residents approve (60%) of the growth and development which has occurred over the last five years and also welcome the opportunity for additional growth and development (65%). Residents see the biggest challenge facing the area as the environmental hazards (55%) and the continued opportunity for jobs (51%). Residents supported land use planning for growth (61%) but felt that the government's role in managing growth should be limited. Residents felt that youth activities (99%); improved shopping (95%) sewer services (78%) and health services (75%) as the biggest needs for the future.

The City, through development of its Comprehensive Plan and implementing ordinances and, through the updated Periodic Review and community visioning process in 1997, has demonstrated its commitment to maintaining an outstanding citizen involvement program. The City's objective is to develop and implement a citizen involvement program that includes components of Statewide Goal #1. These include:

- The City shall strive to provide for widespread citizen involvement, especially in its land use planning process;
- The City shall strive to assure effective two-way communication with its citizens;
- The City shall strive to provide the opportunity for citizens to be involved in all phases of the planning process;
- The City shall endeavor to provide technical information in an available and understandable form.
- The City will strive to assure that citizens will receive a response from policy makers.

GOAL I: CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT POLICIES

The City has adopted several development review procedures requiring citizen involvement, including notification to property owners and notice to public agencies. In addition, the Comprehensive Plan has specific policies relating to citizen involvement. These are as follows:

1. Provide for change in Comprehensive Plan relative to new or unanticipated developments, major change in community, change in Council or Planning Commission policy, and through regular review and re-evaluation.
2. Consistency must be maintained between the Comprehensive Plan and Development Code and other supplemental ordinances and policies in order to maintain the integrity of the planning effort.
3. The City should endeavor to adhere to the spirit of the Land Conservation and Development Commission in its planning activities.
4. The Planning Commission is officially designated as the Citizen Involvement Committee.
5. The City completed a Community Visioning workshop in 1997 to gain understanding of the current needs and concerns of the community.