

## Planning Commission

June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Commissioners present: Chair Arnie Marchand, Vice Chair, Heather Marthaller, Suzie Seger, Alan Freed.

Absent: Valorie Johnston

Staff: Kurt Danison and Cindy Boyer

Chair Arnie called the meeting to order and asked if there were any additions and/or corrections to the minutes from the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, and hearing none, the minutes were approved.

First on the agenda was to welcome the people from WestEast Design, Scott and Katherine. They have traveled here from Texas to talk with other communities in the county about the housing crisis and wanted to know what the commission's concerns were.

Heather shared that most of the new housing being built is for low-income families and nothing for the middle-income bracket.

Suzi stated that so many people from the west side are moving over here and buying up most of the houses and property that nothing is affordable any more for young families or first-time buyers.

Arnie brought up that Gebbers are building some new housing for their migrant workers, just behind us on Appleway, but that will be for the seasonal orchard workers and not year-round residents.

The big problem is the homeless people, and that is in every town in Okanogan County, not just Oroville.

Arnie said that the Depot has been having problems with them for months and also on the Similkameen Trail.

Alan didn't think the police have done enough to help with the problem, plus if they make any arrests, they never stay in jail very long.

Oroville is lucky to have a Housing Authority, and they are building a new housing complex out on Orchard Street. They also have apartments in south town but there is not a lot of empty land to develop in the city limits.

Katherine asked what Oroville's main industry was, and the response was, fruit, Reman Reload, and tourism, just to name a few. B & Bs are there but not regulated so no one really knows how many there really are. Tonasket has none and the Winthrop area has 100s, but you can't make them come forward to be regulated.

The WestEast Design crew would like to have some future meetings to address more things about our housing problems and homelessness. Hopefully we will have a public meeting with the City Council, Police Department and people from the community to give their ideas or feelings concerning the housing shortage.

Arnie stated that since we did not have the time to move on to the next item on the agenda to table it until our next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:38