

Questions and answers about the Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission

Per Planning Committee Members questions about the Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission made after we finished our teleconference with Ray Chiaramonte at the December 30th Planning Committee Meeting, here are the questions and Ray's answers:

Is there zoning code flexibility with the Land Use Plan?

The categories are flexible. There are maximum residential density uses.

What do you do and what do others do? From Website

(www.theplanningcommission.org):

“The Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission serves the citizens by providing a vision for improving the quality of life.

- Organization of the Planning Commission staff begins with the executive director, who is responsible for the staff and for administering the work program and budget. The staff is composed of professional planners and technicians in the areas of land use, community and neighborhood planning, transportation, research and analysis, urban design, capital improvements, utilities, environmental planning and management.
- The staff also provides administrative and professional support to the Hillsborough County Metropolitan Planning Organization (the official transportation planning group), the Hillsborough River Interlocal Planning Board, the Bicycle Advisory Committee, and the Transportation Disadvantaged Coordinating Board.”
- The Planning Commission promotes and coordinates comprehensive long-range planning, growth-management, transportation, and environmental protection, as it makes its recommendations to the local jurisdictions... regarding land use, neighborhood planning, capital improvements, urban design and other comprehensive plan issues.
- The Planning Commission is an independent, consolidated planning agency, led by 10 citizen appointees from all 4 local jurisdictions:
 - Plant City
 - Temple Terrace
 - Tampa
 - Hillsborough County”

Are others involved in planning in the county?

Other planning staffs deal with rezoning, special use permits, and variances.

Do the cities have play in the hiring of staff?

No. Civil service rules apply. The Executive Director has the final decision.

How much community activity do they have?

Their involvement with the community is the most of any agency in the county. They hold community meetings, neighborhood meetings, economic development meetings, Community Redevelopment Plan meetings, etc.

What are the Board Member terms?

The term is 4 years. Members are appointed to staggered 4-year terms. The whole county commission selects members for the board.

Ray suggested that we determine the others, beside the Orange County and City of Orlando planning staffs, involved in planning in Orange County. Elinor researched that issue and the data is in the table below:

TOTAL PLANNING STAFF EMPLOYED IN INCORPORATED AREAS OF ORANGE COUNTY (EXCLUDING CITY OF ORLANDO)		
Incorporated Orange County City/Town	Total Number of Planning Employees	How Many Work on Comprehensive Land Use Plan
Apopka	Total staff: 4 3 Planners/1 Non-Planner	2 Planners
Belle Isle	Total staff: 1 1 Planner	Contract w/consultant
Eatonville	Total staff: 3 2 Planners/1 Non-Planner	Contract w/consultant
Edgewood	Total staff: 1 City Clerk	Contract w/consultant
Maitland	Total staff: 17 5 Planners/12 Non-Planners	3 Planners
Oakland	Total staff: 1	1 Planner (Amendments only – getting ready to re-write & will be contracting with consultant for that purpose)
Ocoee	Total staff: 7 4 Planners/3 Non-Planners	1 Planner
Windermere	Total staff: 1 1 Planner	1 Planner
Winter Garden <i>(Information taken off Winter Gardens official website)</i>	Total staff: 5 3 Planners/2 Non-Planners	<i>Did not provide information</i>
Winter Park	Total staff: 11 5 Planners/6 Non-Planners	3 Planners (Every 10 years seek service of an outside consultant for update)
GRAND TOTAL	Total staff: 51 26 Planners/25 Non-Planners	Planners: 11 Consultant Contracts: 5 contracts