

April 6, 2022

The last couple of weeks I've received a number of queries regarding a series of small group meetings being held around town & hosted by your neighbors.

These meetings are a critical part of a project called "Envision Carlton."

The impetus for this project came out of your comments and concerns voiced during the 2020 election. As I campaigned for office that year, I heard from (pretty much all) neighbors serious concerns regarding Carlton's growth trajectory. These concerns focused not only on if and how the city infrastructure would be able to support more growth, but WHAT that growth was going to look like and how we could, as a city, control such things as the number and types of housing going in, the dangers of fast, uncontrolled growth that could seriously harm the small-town feel and spirit of our city, and what we can do about protecting and keeping Carlton a great little town, instead of another cookie-cutter swath of subdivisions that all look the same and are priced out of reach of most of our city's current residents.

I took those concerns seriously, as did your elected City Councilors, and "Envision Carlton" is the project name for getting our city Comprehensive Plan updated. The "Comp Plan" is the blueprint for how our city grows and operates; it's recommended that it be updated about every 20 years, and we're at that time now. Out of the Comp Plan specific requirements for such projects as new subdivisions are created. Those specific requirements compose our city Development Code which is the "rule book" our city planning commission, city council and developers have to work with.

CITIZEN INPUT TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IS WHERE THIS STARTS.

Getting your input to the Comprehensive Plan revision is what Envision Carlton is all about. This is the time and place where YOU need to step up and speak up! The city is providing two options for you to voice your opinions:

The city is sponsoring a series of small group conversations hosted by your neighbors. If you've been invited to participate in one of those, I strongly encourage you to do so. If you have an interest in hosting one of these gatherings, please contact Aimee Amerson at City Hall for scheduling information and assistance.

If you're not a group meeting kind of person, a questionnaire has been posted on the city website at: ci.carlton.or.us/projectsland/page/envision-carlton

The questionnaire covers the same topics addressed in the meetings; they're open-ended questions so you're able to say what you want.

Please take the time to participate in this project. Your elected officials and city staff are not mind-readers and we all see life through a different lens. In order for this project to represent our community, we need our community (that would be each of you) to speak up.