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Portland schedules Comp Plan hearing for January 2016

By Jim Redden

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An additional City Council hearing on the recommended Comprehensive Plan update has been scheduled for Jan. 7 of next year.

It will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. at Self Enhancement Inc., 3920 N. Kerby Ave.

Another hearing will be held in the spring on amendments proposed to the Comp Plan update, as it is commonly called. After that, the council could vote on the final version in April.

The Comp Plan is a state-required land use planning document intended to govern growth in Portland for the next 20 years. All cities are required to have them, although Portland's plan has not been completely updated since the 1980s. The recommended update has been in the works for years, beginning with former Mayor Tom Potter's Visioning Process, the Portland Plan adopted under former Mayor Sam Adams, and now the more detailed proposal sent to the council by the Planning and Sustainability Commission (PSC).

But that is not the only planning document in the works. The Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS) is also working on the zoning changes that will implement the Comp Plan update after it is approved by the council. One set is included in the Institutional Campus Project, which went before the PSC earlier this month for the first time. Another set is included in the Mixed Zones Project, which will be released as a proposed draft in February and be heard by the PSC on March 8. The final set is in the Residential and Open Space Zoning Update Project, which is now in the discussion draft stage.

Some neighborhood leaders have complained it is difficult to have firm opinions about the recommended Comp Plan updates without seeing the results of the zoning projects. BPS staff say the zoning projects cannot be completed before the council approves the update, however.