



PLANNING COMMISSION

WORK SESSION

Minutes of June 19, 2013

Members present: Chair Michael Babbitt,
Vice Chair Christine Steel, Russell Axelrod, Robert Martin, Holly Miller,
Lorie Griffith, and Nancy King

Staff present: John Sonnen, Planning Director; Peter Spir, Associate Planner; and
Megan Thornton, Assistant City Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Babbitt called the meeting to order in the Council Chambers of City Hall at 6:31 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Commission approved the Minutes of May 1, 2013 by a vote of 7:0.

BRIEFINGS

Reconsideration of the proposed public outreach process regarding the draft amendments to the Water Resource Area (WRA) regulations.

Mr. Spir, the project manager, introduced the WRA public involvement process and timeline and possible approaches to expedite the schedule. He noted that he would be on vacation for the latter part of July through August 6 while the draft regulations are out for public review. The Commission discussed whether the process could be streamlined. They discussed the possibility of omitting the step of refining the draft WRA amendments in light of state, Metro, and public comments prior to releasing the public hearing draft and the Measure 56 notice, which would cut about a month from the schedule. The Commission members decided to retain that step in the process. However, they decided to consolidate the two proposed open houses scheduled for August into a single event. They also asked staff to limit the number of proposed utility bill newsletter updates and press releases to key points in the process rather than monthly as proposed. Commissioners suggested that the public outreach materials include a case study and identify changes to the WRA map. Commissioner Axelrod volunteered to help frame the key changes in the proposed WRA draft to aid the public in understanding the proposal.

Debriefing of Planning Commission cases. Mr. Sonnen explained for the benefit of the newer Commissioners that the Planning Commission periodically debriefed recent cases to identify what went well and what could be improved upon. This had resulted in refinements to Planning

Commission procedures and code changes. The Commission members discuss the issue of building placement close to Highway 43. Mr. Sonnen noted it was common to require buildings to be placed along the street to enable easier and safer access for pedestrians. However, he noted that the consultants for Highway 43/Willamette Falls Drive Vision stated that streets accommodating more than about 10,000 vehicle trips per day were generally not hospitable for pedestrians. Highway 43 accommodates about double that volume of traffic. The Commission suggested looking at building orientation and the protected bike path proposed in the Vision as part of an overall plan for the Robinwood area. Commissioner Martin indicated that he liked the "walking book" and suggested the City consider allowing small neighborhood oriented businesses, such as coffees shop and bakeries, in residential areas that neighborhood residents could walk to.

Commissioner King suggested that the City create a big picture vision of what is wanted before taking action on codes and other measures to spur economic development. Commissioner Steel asked whether the style of the code could be less specific in terms of code citations. Mr. Sonnen said he would discuss it with legal counsel.

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION

The Commission discussed the role of the Planning Commission in drafting code. Mr. Sonnen indicated that it was his intention to ask the Planning Commission how they wanted to be involved in planning projects at the outset of the project.

ITEMS OF INTEREST PERTAINING TO THE COMMISSION FOR CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

None.

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM STAFF

Mr. Sonnen asked the Planning Commission what their preferences were regarding the tablet and portable computer choices identified by IT to enable the Commission to use digital documents. Most Commissioners preferred the tablets, but Commissioner Steel preferred the large version. Chair Babbitt asked that a stylus be provided with the tablets.

Mr. Sonnen reported that the City Council had adopted the proposed substantive code amendments with only minor changes. He also noted the "cut the red tape" code amendment project was tentatively scheduled for a briefing on July 3 and a hearing on August 7.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, Chair Babbitt adjourned the meeting at 9:47 p.m.

APPROVED:


Chair Michael Babbitt

7-3-13
Date