

WORKSHOP NOTES

NAME OF GROUP: PLANNING COMMISSION

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: Wednesday, August 17, 2011, 3:45 p.m., Room 113, County-City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Michael Cornelius, Dick Esseks, Wendy Francis, Leirion Gaylor Baird, Jeanelle Lust, Jim Partington, Lynn Sunderman and Tommy Taylor; Roger Larson absent. Lynn Johnson, Parks & Recreation Department; Marvin Krout, Nicole Fleck-Tooze, David Cary, Sara Hartzell, Brandon Garrett and Michele Abendroth of the Planning Department.

STATED PURPOSE OF MEETING: Draft LPlan 2040/LRTP Workshop

The meeting was called to order at 3:49 p.m. The Nebraska Open Meetings Act was acknowledged.

Krout stated that proposed amendments were sent out to the Commission for review. He noted that the Commission is not being asked to act on the amendments today or at the next hearing on August 24. Action will take place at the September 7 meeting. The Comp Plan amendments will be reviewed today, and the amendments to the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) will be reviewed next week. The amendments to the LRTP will be reflective of the City Council approving the additional funding in the budget at next Monday's meeting.

Gaylor Baird asked for a description of the process for proposing and approving amendments. Krout stated that amendments will be handled in groups. For example, one group will be based on the change document of August 12th. There will be another change document for August 24th and possibly another change document based on comments from the public hearings. Esseks asked if Commissioners can respond and have dialogue with each other during the hearing. Krout stated that it would be best to hear all the speakers and then have dialogue at the end. He noted that Commissioners are free to ask questions of the speakers if they wish.

Krout noted that these proposed changes originated from the LPAC members, from the Planning Commission, Historic Preservation Commission, Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission and Urban Design Committee, the Neighborhood Roundtable, and federal and state agencies.

Cary summarized the changes to the Transportation chapter. He noted that many of the proposed amendments were from reviews by the Nebraska Department of Roads and the Federal Transit Administration and the Federal Highway Administration and from members of the MPO Technical Committee.

Esseks asked about item 10X of the change document regarding the South and East Beltways. Cary noted that the State questioned why the South Beltway was in the Plan when it is shown as illustrative. This change is based on the additional funding being received. Lust stated that she understands that the local funding has changed, but questioned if the State funding has changed as well. Krout noted that State funding has changed due to the passing of LB 84 in May, which provides additional money for State road construction. More concise language will be used for this change.

Fleck-Tooze noted that at the last meeting, staff reviewed the changes based on the questionnaire completed by LPAC. She asked if there were any questions on the recommended changes.

Esseks stated that he would like to strengthen the language on transfer of development rights because the beauty of this is that the land owner gets compensated. He feels it is an opportunity to show that we respect property rights. Krout responded that the County Board has agreed that this is a good tool to add to their tool box, but it has not made it through the processes. Staff intends to bring this to the county legislative program. He added that staff can come up with some language to address this concern.

Gaylor Baird questioned the order and emphasis of the Guiding Principles in the Neighborhoods and Housing chapter. Affordable housing is an important part of the discussion, but the other items listed in the bullets which strengthen neighborhoods are important as well. She suggested possibly changing the order of the bullet items and adding more text from the introduction into the Guiding Principles. Lust added that perhaps the green text box could be changed as well.

Fleck-Tooze noted that the recommended changes to the Placemaking chapter are based on discussions with Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission and Urban Design Committee.

Fleck-Tooze also briefly reviewed the comments received on the online comment board. Cary reviewed the comments received from the comment boxes at the public libraries. All of these comments are posted on the LPlan 2040 website at lplan2040@lincoln.ne.gov under the "Get Involved" tab.

The recommended changes to the July 8th Draft LPlan 2040 can be found on the LPlan 2040 website under the "The Plan" tab.

Johnson stated that there are currently five neighborhood pools, four of which are owned by the City and one is owned by the Lincoln Airport Authority. The Air Park pool is the oldest of the five pools. Average attendance at these pools is around 13,000 per year; collectively, about 50% of the operating costs are recovered through admission. The other pools recover 80% of their operating costs. The ADA recently adopted new accessibility rules requiring two handicapped accessible entrances for the neighborhood pools. None of the pools meet those requirements, so there will be significant costs to bring them into compliance.

Johnson distributed a recommended text change to replace the fifth bullet in Strategies for Aquatic Facilities with the following: Renovate the five Neighborhood Pools (Air Park, Ballard, Belmont, Eden and Irvingdale) to bring the pool basins and bathhouses into compliance with accessibility guidelines, contingent upon adequate funding for annual operations and for repair/renovation costs.

Francis asked if there is a deadline for the pools to be in compliance. Johnson stated that the deadline has been identified at 2012. Staff is hoping that a phased approach will be acceptable.

Gaylor Baird asked about the strategy regarding the YMCA constructing pools and if there have been discussions with the YMCA regarding that. Johnson stated that there have been informal discussions with the YMCA regarding a cooperative arrangement with the City, but the challenge is funding.

Francis asked about the possibility of having a lift to meet the ADA accessibility requirements. Johnson stated that one of the accessibility requirements can be a lift, but the other requirement is that the other must be zero-entry or a ramp. The challenge is that the ramp or zero-entry takes up a great deal of space, and a lane is lost, and the pools are already small.

Gaylor Baird questioned including the reference to the YMCA which is not accessible to everyone. She noted that if we are working with the YMCA on a cooperative agreement for public access, then it may belong in the Plan, but if not, she questions if it should be in here. Sunderman suggested that the strategy could be changed to indicate the collaboration and exclude the specific reference to the YMCA.

Johnson noted that he has reviewed the email from Mike Carlin of Friends of Wilderness Park. He noted that the Parks & Recreation Department worked diligently on the level of service standards and the Parks & Recreation chapter was written to be fiscally constrained, just as the Transportation chapter is. Because of the availability of resources, we are going to see the level of service standard decline over time. Friends of Wilderness Park would like to extend Wilderness Park south of Saltillo Road through fee simple acquisition. Today, the more common model is a mosaic of conservation easements and to prioritize those pieces that are most valuable. This reduces the community's maintenance of the property and keeps it on the tax rolls. He appreciates what they are advocating, but we need to be fiscally constrained.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

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