

**City of Columbus  
Regular Planning Commission Joint Meeting  
February 18, 2015**

The February 18, 2015 regular meeting of the Planning Commission for the City of Columbus was called to order at 7:20 p.m. by Chair Garth Sternberg at the City Hall. Present were Commission members: Pam Wolowski, Jesse Preiner, Jody Krebs, and James Watson; joint with City Council Members Bill Krebs, Jeff Duraine, Mark Daly, Denny Peterson and Mayor Dave Povolny; City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko, and Recording Secretary Karen Boland.

Also in attendance were Julie Eddington of Kennedy & Graven; and Paul Rignell of the Forest Lake Times.

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

*Motion* by Commissioner Krebs to approve the Agenda as presented. Second by Wolowski. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL – 13932 LAKE DRIVE CUP APPLICATION PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES OF JANUARY 7, 2015**

*Motion* by Commissioner Krebs to approve the minutes from the 13932 Lake Drive CUP Application Public Hearing held on January 7, 2015 as written. Second by Wolowski. Votes as follows: Krebs – aye; Preiner – aye; Wolowski – aye; Watson – abstain; Sternberg – aye. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL - REGULAR PC MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 7, 2015**

*Motion* by Commissioner Krebs to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2015 regular Planning Commission meeting as written. Second by Wolowski. Votes as follows: Krebs – aye; Preiner – aye; Wolowski – aye; Watson – abstain; Sternberg – aye. Motion carried.

**PLANNING COMMISSION – CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

Other Topics – Bridge Project

On Tuesday 2/17, Channel 5 featured the Hwy. 97 Bridge, as part of a story on the Governor's bill. The segment included Mayor Povolny, and Commissioner Wolowski as a Columbus business owner.

Forest Lake passed a resolution in support of the 97 bridge replacement project. Scandia is in the process of approving a resolution of support. Hugo is looking at this as well, and Washington County had indicated they would follow Forest Lake with a resolution of support. Anoka County Commissioner Rhonda Sivarajah is looking for resolutions of support from Chisago and Isanti counties.

A sample letter from a business owner was distributed for CC and PC members to use and share. The City will also compose sample letters which can be tailored for use by other citizens, and commuters interested in and affected by this issue. Letters – preferably in e-mail form -- should be directed to MN State legislators Benson, Housley, Dettmer and Hackbarth. Copies should also be submitted to the City. They will be passed along to a delegation from Anoka County that is traveling to Washington D.C., March 3 and 4, in support of the project. This delegation plans to

meet with U.S. Congress members Emmer and Klobuchar. As of now, Mursko knows of no hearings scheduled in the State legislature on the bills: H.F. 315 and S.F. 248.

The next step is to generate and encourage letters, as soon as possible. Mayor Povolny suggested sticking to consistent talking points for funding construction of a new bridge, so that everyone is putting forth the same message.

### 2015 Work Plan

There was discussion of zoning issues the Council would like the Planning Commission to address in the coming year. After much discussion of a number of zoning and tax topics, the following directives were established:

- Meet with the City's new Met Council representative and get feedback on zoning possibilities.
- Look at the zoning map and consider potential uses based on the current development climate.
- Consider the concept of allowing private roads in residential developments.
- Consider an ordinance related to ambient lighting for both residential and commercial property.
- Write and generate letters in support of the bridge project.

Mursko said she has recently been contacted by Xcel Energy. They are required to have a certain amount of energy generated by solar panels, and are approaching communities to have these solar panel farms. They need 80 acres. Xcel leases the 80 acres and puts in solar panels. She asked if the Council would consider a request to lease land to Xcel for this purpose. CC members were strongly opposed.

### **PUBLIC OPEN FORUM**

There was no topic raised for discussion for Open Forum.

### **CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

The City recently hired Bronwyn Pope, a Columbus resident, as Public Information Coordinator. She will begin 2-3 weeks, and the City will be fully staffed.

Mursko reminded PC and CC members that there will be only one meeting for each group in March. The PC will meet March 4<sup>th</sup>, and the CC will meet March 18<sup>th</sup>.

Mursko also said the City has been receiving many calls with regard to subdivisions and businesses. She anticipates a number of applications this year.

### **PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS' REPORT**

#### **STERNBERG COMMENT:**

Sternberg welcomed new Planning Commission Member James Watson.

#### **WOLOWSKI COMMENT:**

Wolowski suggested the use of social media to post a link to the Channel 5 story, and to encourage others to write letters in support of funding for a new bridge. It's a great way to get the word out to a lot of people who live, work or commute in the community.

### **ATTENDANCE - NEXT CC MEETING**

Wolowski does not need to attend the City Council meeting on February 25, 2015.

*Motion* by Commissioner Krebs to adjourn. Second by Preiner. Motion carried.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Karen Boland, Recording Secretary