

City of Columbus
Regular Planning Commission Meeting
March 4, 2015

The March 4, 2015 regular meeting of the Planning Commission for the City of Columbus was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Garth Sternberg at the City Hall. Present were Commission members James Watson, Pam Wolowski, Jesse Preiner, and Jody Krebs; City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko, and Recording Secretary Karen Boland.

Also in attendance was City Council member Denny Peterson.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by Krebs to approve the Agenda as presented. Second by Preiner. Motion carried.

APPROVAL – JOINT PC MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 18, 2015

Motion by Krebs to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2015 regular Planning Commission joint meeting as written. Second by Wolowski. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION – 2015 PLANNING COMMISSION WORK PLAN

PC members discussed the directives from the CC established at the last joint meeting.

- Meet with the City's new Met Council representative and get feedback on zoning possibilities.

PC members will seek a joint PC/CC meeting with the City's district and sector Met Council representatives. Mursko will try to schedule it for April 15th or the next PC meeting night when they are available.

Some goals for the meeting were discussed. The hope is to open a dialogue to see what the chances are of changing the City's zoning options. Another point of discussion might be to find out why Columbus is included in the regional water district, and whether we may be exempt from writing a water plan for the next Comp Plan. It would also be an opportunity to ask for any assistance Met Council can give toward the bridge project. Wolowski suggested sending letters in support of the bridge to the Met Council. Mursko suggested asking Met Council reps what their expectations are for the Comp Plan. Are there a lot of amendments? She said the Statute requires cities to do a Comp Plan every 10 years, but it is very costly.

- Look at the zoning map and consider potential uses based on the current development climate.

PC members will look at this item after the McCombs study is completed.

- Consider the concept of allowing private roads in residential developments.

Krebs noted that there is language in the ordinance, pg. 7A-44, regarding private streets allowed in the SR district. Private roads are allowed in the commercial district. The CC wants the PC to look at the concept of private roads within a subdivision development, in the

residential district. A private road is only for residents or others with reason to be on the road. Existing private roads within the City were discussed.

PC members feel the concept of private roads in residential developments will depend upon the decisions on zoning issues. Before putting language in the ordinance, the PC would want to ask the City Attorney: 1) to clarify if a “private” road refers to ownership only or to access as well; and 2) if language could be included to prevent neighbors along a private road from being able to exclude expansion in the subdivision.

- Consider an ordinance related to ambient lighting for both residential and commercial property.

The PC does not feel changes need to be made to the ordinance re: residential lighting. The City has received no complaints related to residential lighting. Sternberg will do more research on regulations and language regarding commercial lighting in other cities, and bring that information back to the next PC meeting. PC members will look at MN Statute 16B.328, an outdoor lighting fixtures model ordinance, and see if it can be fine-tuned to meet the City’s needs.

- Write and generate letters in support of the bridge projects.

This item is already in progress. In addition to letters from citizens and business owners, Scandia, Forest Lake, Hugo, and Washington County have all adopted resolutions of support for the bridge project.

PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

There was no topic raised for discussion for Open Forum.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mursko reported that, at the last City Council meeting, Running Aces discussed \$200,000 worth of renovations they would like to make. As part of this, they would like to be able to hold concerts in the future. Currently, the ordinance does not allow staged musicals as a permitted use at Running Aces. The present Interim Use Permit does not allow for non-stage musical acts, therefore RAHP will have to submit an application for an amended conditional use permit and Zoning text amendment to allow staged musical acts. The City Council supported the idea and requested RAHP come forward with details to the Planning Commission. This action will require a zoning text amendment and conditional use permit amendment.

The Columbus EDA has reinstated ColumBiz. It will take place on April 9th, from 8 to 9:30 a.m., and will include a short presentation, table captains, more opportunity to socialize with other business owners, and a Q&A. Participants are encouraged to bring business cards to exchange.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS' REPORT

KREBS COMMENT:

The projected surplus for the State is \$1.869 billion. It is important to keep support for the 97 bridge going. Roads and bridges are seeing a big funding push nationally too. It is critical to keep our project on the minds of legislators.

Krebs also reminded PC members that daylight savings time begins Sunday, March 8th.

PREINER COMMENT:

Preiner visited Westmor to ask for letters in support of the 97 bridge project. He toured the facility, and called it an interesting and beautiful place. They provide jet fuel equipment and services used at the Mpls./St. Paul International Airport and the Anoka County airport. He said it was amazing, and the people are very nice.

ATTENDANCE - NEXT CC MEETING

Watson is scheduled to attend the City Council meeting on March 18, 2015.

Motion by Krebs to adjourn. Second by Sternberg. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Karen Boland, Recording Secretary