

City of Columbus
Regular Planning Commission Meeting
May 6, 2015

The May 6, 2015 regular meeting of the Planning Commission for the City of Columbus was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chair Garth Sternberg at the City Hall. Present were Commission members Jim Watson, Pam Wolowski, Jesse Preiner, and Jody Krebs; Planner Dean Johnson, and Recording Secretary Karen Boland.

Also in attendance were Mayor Dave Povolny; Mary Preiner, and Pat Preiner.

AGENDA APPROVAL

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

APPROVAL - JOINT PC/CC MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 15, 2015

Motion by Wolowski to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2015 joint Planning Commission/City Council meeting as written. Second by Krebs. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION:

Population Forecast

In mid-April the City received updated draft forecasts from the Metropolitan Council for population, households, and employment in Columbus in the years 2020, 2030 and 2040. Draft forecast information was also included for surrounding communities in the region. The Met Council asked that any comments on the forecasts be made by May 8th.

Planner Johnson explained that the primary purpose for the forecasts is to have adequate road and sewer capacity. The updated regional forecast reduces overall regional growth by 2040, but forecasts for Columbus have increased from earlier forecasts. The draft forecast allows for an increase of 780 households in Columbus between now and 2040. Johnson said there is no penalty or downside for the City if the forecasts are higher than actual growth turns out to be. He sees no reason to comment or suggest any changes to the 2015 updated forecast. PC members agreed.

Outdoor Lighting Ordinance

PC members reviewed samples of ordinances used in other cities, and discussed some guidelines for lighting regulations. The main issues to consider are shrouding, down casting, and having some measure for light going beyond the property line.

There was discussion of security lighting, older businesses with wall pack lighting or floodlights, the line of enforcement for the current ordinance and CUP requirements, and exceptions to lighting regulation such as street lights, emergency lighting, etc.

Planner Johnson will draft changes to the current ordinance and bring them to the next PC meeting. He will include definitions of “luminaire,” “lumen,” and “cut off luminaire.” All references to foot candles will be changed to lumens, per current industry language. The standard for any zone abutting residential property will be .5 lumen at the lot line. The standard for commercial abutting commercial will be 1 lumen at the lot line. This may be subject to change as

Sternberg and Preiner will use a light meter to check lumens at lot lines of some existing commercial property, so the adequacy of current regulation can be considered. They will bring this information to the next meeting.

PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

There was no topic raised for discussion for Open Forum.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

There was no City Administrator's report.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS' REPORT

None.

ATTENDANCE - NEXT CC MEETING

Wolowski is scheduled to attend the City Council meeting on May 13, 2015.

Motion by Krebs to adjourn. Second by Watson. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Karen Boland, Recording Secretary