



**PLANNING COMMISSION
WORK SESSION
ANOKA CITY HALL COMMITTEE ROOM
Tuesday, January 5, 2016
6:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Work Session of the Anoka Planning Commission was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners present: Chair Don Kjonaas, Borgie Bonthuis, Karna Brewer, Manley Brahs, Sandy Herrala, Peter Rech, and James Cook.

Commissioners absent: None.

Staff present: Chuck Darnell, Associate Planner, and Clark Palmer, Associate Planner.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Discussion of 2015 Accomplishment and 2016 Goals

Associate Planner Darnell introduced the draft version of the Planning Commission's 2015 accomplishments and 2016 goals, which were as follows:

2015 Planning Commission Accomplishments

1. Met a total of 21 times, including 10 regular meetings and 11 work sessions.
2. Processed 21 planning cases that allowed for significant investment in the City of Anoka.
3. Worked with the HRA to complete a comprehensive plan update, rezoning, and site plan approval for the Walker Methodist project in the South Central Business District.
4. Incorporated a traffic analysis requirement into the City Code, and successfully applied the traffic analysis requirements to a project that was reviewed in 2015.
5. Incorporated standards for temporary structures and driveway widths in the public right of way into the zoning ordinance, and adopted an updated floodplain ordinance.

2016 Planning Commission Goals

1. Continue to work with the HRA to redevelop sites in the South Central Business District planning area and rezone properties consistent with the study.
2. Rezone certain properties within the B-3 Central Business District and update uses allowed in the B-4 Limited Business District

3. Review and update sign ordinance and review all other sections of the zoning ordinance that relate to signs.
4. Consider creating in-fill residential development standards for vacant residential lots.
5. Review and complete updates to the zoning ordinance to clarify the City Code including those related to accessory buildings and lighting.

The Commissioners discussed the goals and had conversation on changes that should be made to the two lists.

Chair Kjonaas suggested that the first two goals for 2016 be combined, and that the third goal be changed to something more focused on the review of the Comprehensive Plan given that the Comprehensive Plan update process will be beginning soon. Staff suggested that the goal be on reviewing the plan and identifying areas that may require more significant updates.

Commissioner Brewer asked about the 4th Avenue development site, and whether we should review the standards and zoning requirements to see what we would allow to be developed on that site. Chair Kjonaas stated that the City had standards that would apply. Commissioner Brahs asked what the property was currently zoned. Staff responded that the area is zoned Transit Oriented Development – Employee Emphasis.

Chair Kjonaas suggested that a new goal be added, which would be to review the transit and TOD areas, work with the parks department on the work to be completed in that area, and determine whether the zoning requirements or design standards need any updating. Commissioner Herrala agreed, and stated that she wanted to ensure that the environmental quality of the land in the Wild and Scenic area would be preserved.

Commissioner Brewer asked whether the accomplishments from 2015 line up with the goals that were approved for 2015. Staff responded that they did, and that a few of the goals from 2015 were accomplished over the past year, and were noted in the list of 2015 accomplishments. Commissioner Brewer suggested that we align our goals with the City Council and other city commissions.

Commissioner Herrala suggested that the Planning Commission revisit the plans for Cooper's Landing, and determine whether any updates were needed.

The group decided to eliminate the fourth and fifth goals from the list of draft 2016 goals, and add the goals related to the Comprehensive Plan, the transit area, and Cooper's Landing. Commissioner Brewer stated that some of the work associated with the new goals would assist in the Comprehensive Plan update process.

Commissioner Cook suggested that the Planning Commission meet quarterly with the other city commissions. Commissioner Cook also suggested that we add more detail to the 2015

accomplishment about the planning cases that were processed through the Planning Commission in 2015.

Commissioner Peter Rech joined the meeting, and introduced himself as this was his first meeting since being appointed to the Planning Commission.

Staff read through the updated list of goals and accomplishments, and noted that they would be brought forward for final approval at the next regular meeting.

Time of adjournment 6: 50 p.m.
Submitted by: Chuck Darnell, Associate Planner