

PLANNING COMMISSION RECORD

Briefing Session

NAME OF GROUP:	PLANNING COMMISSION
DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:	Wednesday, March 30, 2005, 12:15, Room 113, First Floor, County-City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska
MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:	Gene Carroll, Gerry Krieser, Roger Larson, Lynn Sunderman, Mary Bills-Strand and Tommy Taylor (Jon Carlson, Melinda Pearson and Dan Marvin absent). Kent Morgan, Steve Henrichsen, Ray Hill, David Cary, Mike DeKalb and Teresa McKinstry of the Planning Dept.; Scott Holmes, Charlotte Burke and Chris Schroeder of the Health Dept.; Ed Schneider of the Lincoln/Lancaster County Board of Health
STATED PURPOSE	A discussion regarding a subcommittee to address public health policy issues related to land use planning and community design

Steve Henrichsen stated that the Lincoln/Lancaster County Board of Health members are interested in a subcommittee to look at community design and health hazard issues. There was a recent article in Planning Magazine about health issues and standards. Staff sees some benefits to having a committee to discuss these issues.

Scott Holmes stated that the Health Dept. has been involved in land use review for decades as well as working with the noise codes. A lot of their work has been behind the scenes. They have worked with hazardous materials in relation to certain uses and have realized there are some significant gaps in how the codes are written. The zoning code is a historic based code. Some of the setback issues are very short and in older areas there are industrial areas very close to residential areas. Health Dept. staff has been making comments to land use review about hazards being in close proximity to certain uses. There are risks but a lot of people have no idea what is there. There is also more of a focus on living by design. How do we design our community that it is a healthier place to live? Overall, Lincoln has done a great job. There are areas beyond hazardous materials that the Board of Health is interested in. Health Dept. staff makes recommendations on applications and what they run into is policy level decisions. Sometimes they have no code authority, they are just making a recommendation. Staff would like to move forward with a group to review these items.

Ed Schneider with Lincoln/Lancaster County Board of Health stated that board members had about 4 days of education. It included multi-modal transportation, parks, bicycles as transportation and hazardous materials; their use storage and transportation, among other things. Up until now, the Health Dept. has done the best they can trying to address the problems, but we feel policy is needed. These topics need to be addressed. The Board has nothing in particular in mind. There is a community right to know about these problems. We respectfully request that the Planning Commission create a subcommittee to review these items.

Bills-Strand stated that Planning staff has requested four members from Planning Commission be appointed to this sub-committee. Mr. Henrichsen stated that the Health Dept. has already appointed four of their members. This will be a multi month task. He likes that there is no set agenda, just many items that need to be discussed.

Bills-Strand indicated she would be willing to serve. Gene Carroll, Tommy Taylor and Lynn Sunderman volunteered to serve on the subcommittee as well.

Bills-Strand wondered when the meetings would start. Mr. Henrichsen replied they would like to get started in April, 2005. Staff will be in contact with everyone to try and coordinate days and times.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa McKinstry
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Planning Department