

BRIEFING NOTES

NAME OF GROUP:	PLANNING COMMISSION
DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING:	Wednesday, May 6, 2009, 11:45 a.m. Room 113, County-City Building, 555 S. 10 th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska
MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:	Gene Carroll, Michael Cornelius, Dick Esseks, Wendy Francis, Leirion Gaylor Baird, Roger Larson, Jim Partington, Lynn Sunderman and Tommy Taylor.
OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:	Greg MacLean and Nicole Fleck-Tooze of Public Works; David Landis of Urban Development; JJ Yost of Parks & Rec; Marvin Krout, Steve Henrichsen, Mike DeKalb, David Cary, Brandon Garrett, Rashi Jain and Michele Abendroth of the Planning Department; other interested parties.
STATED PURPOSE OF MEETING:	2009 Comprehensive Plan Annual Review, Community Indicators Report, 2009/10 - 2014/15 Capital Improvements Program and the 2010-2015 Transportation Improvement Program

The meeting was called to order at 11:45 a.m.

Cary stated that the purpose of today's meeting is to brief the Commission on the Comprehensive Plan Annual Review, the Community Indicators Report, the Capital Improvements Program (CIP), and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The current Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2006. Approximately one year following Comp Plan adoption and on an annual basis, the Planning Department is charged with doing an annual update.

The Community Indicators Report is prepared annually to coincide with the annual review of the Comp Plan. This report is to provide data which assists the Planning Commission and others in their evaluation of the Comp Plan. It is based on benchmarks in the Comp Plan. It is meant to continually evaluate information.

In the Growth Section of the report, the data indicates that Lincoln is continuing to grow as a community. As of July 1, 2008, the population was up 1.46 percent from 2007 to 2008. We are showing a regular increase in population. In looking at all the information, staff has determined the indicators are showing that the assumptions are consistent with growth. Building permits indicate 90.8% of dwelling units are permitted in Lincoln's planning jurisdiction.

Cary noted that residential building permits are down from 1,876 in 2006 to 1,163 in 2007. This is the lowest 3-year residential building average since 1984 to 1986. The supply of residential lots shows a 14-year supply of single family detached lots.

In the Economy section, the business and commerce sections are increasing 1.61% per year since 2000. The Industrial sectors are growing at 0.15% per year, which is below the 2.5% anticipated annual growth in the Plan. Overall, employment rose 0.99% per year since 2000. The civilian labor force had 0.88% growth rate since 2000. Unemployment was 3.01% in 2008 and is on the rise.

We have a well-educated labor force. Total sales tax collected in 2007/08 is lower than that collected in 2006/07 in real dollars. The average annual increase in sales tax is 3.06% since 2000. The lodging taxes saw a 6.76% increase in 2007/08.

In the Environmental section, the floodplain building and fill permits are down for the third year in a row. The air quality is still very good in the county. The number of farms has increased while the average size has decreased. A contributing factor is that there is a new definition of what constitutes a farm. Recycling per capita at voluntary centers is at an all-time high with the potential to grow.

In the Transit section, StarTran ridership has been increasing an average of 2.75% per year since 2000. StarTran attempts to serve as many homes as possible, as efficiently as possible. 81.91% of homes in Lincoln are conveniently located within ¼ mile of a StarTran fixed route.

In terms of roadways, there were 2,676 lane miles of roadway in 2008 in Lincoln. The 2006 a.m. vehicle occupancy rate was slightly higher than in 2004. The p.m. occupancy rate remained the same.

With respect to the Recreation section, 92.9% of homes within the City were within 1 mile of a public multi-use trail in 2008, and 72.8% of homes were within ½ mile of a neighborhood park. There are over 60 neighborhood parks throughout Lincoln.

Esseks asked if staff sees problem or opportunities relative to the mission of this group when looking at this data. Cary stated that in the Industrial sector, the goal identified in the Plan is a 2.5% growth rate in that sector of employment but we are only growing at 0.15% over the last 7-8 years.

Cary then continued by reviewing the Comp Plan amendments. He noted that there was a call for proposals from both public and private sectors which was due February 6. There were no private submittals this year. There were four public submittals. The Planning Commission public hearing on these amendments is on May 13. The amendments will be presented on June 1 at the Common meeting.

In CPA #09001, Cary stated that the Lincoln Police Department proposes to change language on Page 131 of the Comp Plan to better indicate their plans for future facilities. This change will indicate both the current intent of the Police Department as well as the fact that there are plans identified in the CIP to implement additional Police Department facilities.

In CPA #09003, Garrett noted that the Planning Department proposes to add language to page 8 of the Comp Plan to recognize the importance of building sustainable communities. This amendment has been reviewed by the Neighborhood Roundtable and the County Ecological Advisory Committee. It addresses the topic of sustainability and provides a section acknowledging that topic. It could be seen as a starting point for future amendments on sustainability and related topics.

Cornelius asked about transportation sustainability. Garrett stated that this is a very generalized topic, and transportation will be addressed later. Krout stated that the implication is to look at it in the future and look for ways to reduce the number of trips.

DeKalb then reviewed CPA #09004. This amendment is a result of the retreat session last summer. It refines and clarifies the existing language and policies in the Comp Plan relative to rural and acreage development. The Planning Department is also working on a possible amendment to the City and County zoning provisions for community units plans in the Agriculture District which would add bonuses for clustering.

Esseks asked if there has been a statement noting that this is a trade-off in that in order to encourage clustering, there is an increased benefit to the developer. Carroll noted that there is an understanding of give-and-take in that Planning Commission would not relax the rules and that there would be an extra bonus on the ag side. He believes a good balance was achieved.

Partington asked what criteria is used to identify property not yet zoned but dedicated for AGR. DeKalb stated that historically property has been identified in the Comp Plan as appropriate for low density agriculture development and that property would be shown yellow but not zoned yellow.

Garrett stated that CPA #09005 came at the request of the Parks Department. There are 5 criteria which include: adding "community festival/gathering spaces" to the "Description" of Regional Parks; adding Union Plaza to the Regional Parks section under "Other Location and Design Criteria" and "Strategies"; adding to the "Description" of Community Parks that they may serve as Neighborhood Parks; adding to the "Other Location and Design Criteria" of Community Parks that pedestrian connections should be created between surrounding residential development and neighborhood-related park features; and revising the Community Park conceptual diagram on Page 135 by incorporating Neighborhood Park features closer to surrounding residential areas with pedestrian connections and placing Community Park features such as ball fields and parking closer to arterial streets.

Cary then provided a review of the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) process. In December of last year, we began the process. The initial submittal was due February 2, 2009. The Capital Improvement Advisory Committee (CIAC) version was submitted on March 4. This is considered the working version. Departmental presentations were made in March and changes were made prior to the Planning Commission version. The responsibility of the Planning Commission is to review capital requests to determine conformity with the Comp Plan. Their comments will be forwarded to the CIAC and then to the City Council. Year 1 will be adopted as the capital budget. There are four findings

on Comp Plan conformity: In conformance with the Plan, generally conforms with the plan, not included in the plan, and not in conformance with the plan. Factors used in this recommendation are explicit reference and plan intent, the location of the project, the size, scale and scope of the project, the timing of the project, and project definition and description. Cary noted that staff has found all the projects to be in conformance with the plan or generally conforming with the plan.

The non-Public Works sections of the CIP include Building & Safety, Finance, Fire, Libraries, LES, Aging, Police, Urban Development and Parks & Rec.

MacLean stated that Public Works is the largest department in the City. The Public Works sections include StarTran, Streets and Highways, Watershed Management, Street Maintenance, Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste. In year 1, there is \$47 million, which is lower than in year's past.

Esseks asked about the proposed Southwest Treatment facility. MacLean stated that it is not part of the plan at this point, but they will consider it in the future. It is not a high priority project at this point.

Next, Cary reviewed the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He stated that the MPO produces the TIP as a federal requirement. The purpose is to produce a coordinated list of transportation projects that include federal funding and other significant transportation projects in the region. It is a six-year schedule with the first four years adopted. It is financially constrained and includes a priority list of projects. Projects come from the Mobility section of the Comp Plan. There was a Tech Committee meeting on the TIP on April 30. There will be a May 13 Planning Commission public hearing and another Tech Committee meeting on May 29 with an Officials Committee meeting in June. It will then be sent to the state for inclusion in the state's TIP. The state will then submit it to the FTA and FHWA, and it will go into effect in October.

The next steps in the CIP will be a May 13 Planning Commission public hearing on conformity with the Comp Plan. Conformity findings are forwarded to the CIAC and then to the City Council. Year 1 of the CIP will be adopted as the capital budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Abendroth
Planning Department

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