

CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE MINUTES

June 24, 2013

The City Council Community Planning and Transportation Committee of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met at 5:35 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room on the 24th day of June, 2013, and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted in the Municipal Building at 201 West Gray and the Norman Public Library at 225 North Webster 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

PRESENT: Councilmembers Gallagher, Jungman, Chairman Griffith

ABSENT: Councilmember Williams

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Cindy Rosenthal
Councilmember Robert Castleberry
Councilmember Linda Lockett
Councilmember Elect Greg Heiple
Councilmember Elect Lynne Miller

STAFF PRESENT: Ms. Susan Atkinson, Planner I
Mr. Jeff Bryant, City Attorney
Ms. Susan Connors, Planning and Community
Development Director
Mr. Terry Floyd, Development Coordinator
Mr. Steve Lewis, City Manager
Mr. David Riesland, Traffic Engineer
Ms. Karla Chapman, Administrative Technician

Item 1, being:

CART RIDERSHIP REPORT INCLUDING SAFERIDE AND EXTENDED SERVICE.

Mr. Doug Myers, OU Parking and Transportation Administrator, distributed the May 2013 Cleveland Area Rapid Transit (CART) Ridership report. Chairman Griffith asked if anyone had any comments and/or questions regarding the CART May, 2013 CART Ridership report and no comments and/or questions were received.

Items submitted for the record

1. Cleveland Area Rapid Transit Ridership Totals for the Month of May 2013

Item 2, being:

CONTINUED DISCUSSION REGARDING A DRAFT ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING HIGH-DENSITY RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICTS.

Mayor Rosenthal said this afternoon the Norman Economic Development Coalition (NEDC) voted not to sell the NEDC property located at 710 Asp Avenue and has issued a position statement which was distributed to the Community Planning and Transportation Committee (CPTC). The position statement indicated after careful thought and deliberation, NEDC decided a well-defined vision and comprehensive plan needs to be developed for the Campus Corner and downtown areas. The statement also indicates NEDC believes a true vision for the overall development of Norman's core areas of Campus Corner, downtown Norman, and the connecting corridor is necessary before proceeding further.

In the position statement, it also noted that President Boren has pledged the University's resources and support to develop this vision through the Institute for Quality Communities. Accordingly, President Boren respectfully supports a process led by the Institute for Quality Communities, to include community leaders and interested parties to examine, deliberate, and establish a clear vision and comprehensive development plan for the Campus Corner and downtown Norman corridors.

Item 2, continued:

NEDC and President Boren support a collaborative and inclusive approach and respectfully request that the City of Norman and other involved parties withhold any action on new ordinances that would limit the scope of this plan until the completion of a visioning process and development plan for the Campus Corner to Main Street Corridor.

Mayor Rosenthal felt the community needed to “step back and take a deep breathe” and accept NEDC and University’s request to forego any action regarding high density ordinances until a positive vision has been created for the Campus Corner and downtown Norman corridors. She said there are concerns regarding the high density ordinance coming forward at this time and the ordinance may perhaps create negative conditions rather than positive. Mayor Rosenthal said she has spoken to Mr. George Wilson, Chair NEDC Board, and he indicated there are very constructive ways to look at the corridor and create a well-defined vision that will benefit the entire community.

Mayor Rosenthal said she appreciates and thanks NEDC for a very thoughtful debate and their decision. She felt that NEDC wishes only the best for the community and wants to be a part of this visioning process.

Chairman Griffith said sending a high density ordinance forward to Planning Commission may be premature in light of the fact there is not a clear vision for Campus Corner and downtown Norman and the Committee agreed.

Councilmember Gallagher said the Committee needed to keep in mind that the thrust of the entire project will affect all of Norman, not just the University. He said he understands the University will be a very important part of the equation, but felt the reasoning, rationale, and control regarding high density needed to stay with the City and Council.

Chairman Griffith asked if NEDC had given any kind of a timeline for the visioning process and Mr. Steve Lewis, City Manager, said a scope of work will need to be developed; therefore, there currently is not a timeline for the visioning process. Chairman Griffith asked whether the CPTC will be involved in discussions during the visioning process and Mayor Rosenthal said absolutely, the process will involve community leaders, Council, etc. She said not only the zoning piece, but the issues regarding the parking, traffic, financial, etc., will be worked through during the visioning process. She said the visioning process and unified plan can holistically create an area that works for walkability, transit, and traffic.

Items submitted for the record

1. Memorandum dated June 24, 2013, from Ms. Susan F. Connors, AICP, Director of Planning and Community Development, to Chairman and Members of the Community Planning and Transportation Committee, with Attachment A, High Density Residential Zoning District HDR-1 Draft 5, dated June 24, 2013
2. Norman Economic Development Coalition (NEDC) Position Paper: Sale of 710 Asp Avenue, dated June 24, 2013
3. Sign In Sheets for the Community Planning and Transportation Committee meeting dated June 24, 2013

Item 3, being:

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION.

None.

The meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.