

NormanCenterCityVision

Center City Vision Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 27, 2014 8:00 AM
Norman City Council Chambers, 201 West Gray Street

Members in Attendance:

Jim Adair
Rebecca Bean
Susan Connors
Jonathan Fowler
Judy Hatfield
Richard McKown
Mayor Cindy Rosenthal
Barrett Williamson
Heather Woods O'Connell

City Staff in Attendance:

Susan Atkinson

Guests in Attendance:

Dean Charles Graham, OU College of Architecture
Chris Janson, Opticos Design Group
Bill Lennertz, National Charrette Institute
Mary Madden, Ferrell Madden
Hope Mander, OU Institute for Quality Communities

The meeting began at 8:05 AM

Consultant B Lennertz debriefed participants from the Center City Vision public meeting held on Wednesday, March 26, 2014. Lennertz reported that over 150 people attended the public meeting. He also stated that the consulting team was pleased with the attendance as well as the participant content generated at the public meeting.

J Hatfield, B Williamson, and J Adair said that issues surrounding parking were raised at their table discussions at the previous night's meeting. Hatfield said participants believed that the time was right for the City to explore creation of a parking authority. C Rosenthal said that the Norman Economic Development Advisory Board was recently asked to explore how the structure of a parking authority could work in Norman.

Consultant M Madden said that allowing and promoting shared parking is often a good interim step before a community has funds to build structured parking. R McKown mentioned that church parking requirements often require churches to provide parking well in excess of their actual need. J Adair

stated that he thought land costs may have risen in the project area to the point where it would be economically feasible for downtown Norman churches to consider building structured parking and return some existing surface parking lots to other land uses.

Members J Fowler and R Bean reported that issues of impediments to young entrepreneurs came up at their table discussions.

B Lennertz recommended bringing a focus group of young Norman entrepreneurs together to identify possible barriers. He described the notion of "Lean Urbanism" as an approach to streamlining local requirements to setting up a business.

M Madden described how form based codes (FBC) could work with existing zoning or could replace existing zoning depending on community preferences. She added that FBC work regardless of the scale of a project.

R McKown urged the committee to get the Norman Fire Department involved in the vision project ASAP so that the vision can be informed by life safety codes and avoid impediments later.

C Rosenthal said the subject of new housing that targets seniors came up at her table. J Hatfield discussed work she has previously done on new housing targeting alumni.

Dean C Graham urged group to make sure that the final vision for the Center City project has true spirit. B Lennertz added that the drawings that will be developed during the Design Charrette May 12-16 will likely embody that spirit and live on well past the end of the charrette.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40.