



Planning Commission Work Session

MINUTES

JUNE 15, 2010

6:03 PM – 7:11 PM

CONFERENCE ROOM

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| FACILITATOR | Chairman Robert Whiteley |
| NOTE TAKER | Judy Merrill |
| ATTENDEES | Robert Whiteley, Kenneth Hellewell, Tena Campbell, Gary Pratt, Tyler Bodrero, Troy Moyes, and Judy Merrill |

Item 1

DISCUSSION OF COMMISSION ASSIGNMENTS

Robert explained the purpose for the committees. Kenneth proposed that the first three committees concentrate on 1700 South, SR193, and the General Plan. He explained his reasoning for those three as being the affect the first two committees would have on the General Plan, such as proposals for new zones. Robert referred to Nathan Miller’s recommendation to have a committee focus on transportation needs, along with trailways. Kenneth agreed but suggested such a committee could follow the first three. By getting the General Plan out of the way, they could focus better on transportation, which would take a lot of time. Robert pointed out that transportation went hand in hand with a lot of the other potential developments in the City and was a little more specific with road classifications. Tena asked Kenneth what other areas he believed needed addressing by the General Plan. Kenneth mentioned a new business park zone for the northwest area of the City, since he considered the C-2 zone as too broad. Robert suggested having a component of the committees be submitting applicable amendments to the General Plan. Troy preferred their focus to be along 1700 South and SR193 first and then creating a committee to prepare for the West-Davis Corridor. Its EIS study was underway, and the corridor did not necessarily have to follow Bluff Road. When finished in about 18 months to two years, Syracuse needed to be ready with good plans for every optional route. Kenneth asked for Troy’s opinion of a third committee, and Troy suggested they prepare a plan of how they wanted the City to look, with transportation as the most important issue. They could not make zones successful without walkability and public transportation. Tena suggested choosing Nathan to chair a transportation committee, rather than the General Plan, since he appeared to be very passionate about that topic. Troy agreed, pointing out that the Commission and Council already amended the General Plan. He mentioned software that would allow the Commission to create different renderings for main corridors that would help in their planning.

Craig Johnson, of 2148 West 2375 South, stood and expressed his desire for the Commission to look at the City’s reputation and work towards improving it. He hoped that people would think of Syracuse as a gateway to Antelope Island, a great place for biking, and a place that had a lot to offer businesses so that people wanted to come here. It would give residents ownership of the City and help everyone be excited about living here.

Kenneth wanted to lead the 200-South committee. Tena suggested that she co-chair a committee, since the individual who would fill her position at the end of her term next month might not want to head the same committee. Gary offered to chair the 1700 South committee. Tyler preferred SR193, so Robert suggested he and Kenneth be co-chairs. Kenneth recommended that Eric Hazen co-chair the 1700 South committee with Gary. Tena suggested her replacement co-chair transportation and then recommended placing an article in the City newsletter soliciting volunteers to join these committees.

Robert suggested the committees draft objectives and forward them to Troy who could then make sure committee members had what they needed to add, refine, or modify their scopes. Troy stressed the importance of following basic planning practices, with sequences and order, by first identifying a purpose and need. He used Antelope Drive as an example. The identified need would be more retail. They should then answer the question as to why the City needed more retail, referencing statistics. Coming up with great planning ideas might not answer these questions, so he wanted them to make sure they did not jump ahead and create a public clamor over changes to properties without clear reasons, such as the 200 South area. The City promised to contact those property owners again, so Kenneth needed to go back to that group and provide them with the results of the citizen planning session. He should then solicit a smaller group of individuals from those same participants for the new committee in order to avoid the appearance of doing things behind the public’s back. He suggested they move towards their goals with renderings of their ideas. He then referenced a meeting he had with a major realtor who cited the biggest problem with cities as being the number of required processes for approvals. He wanted the committees to establish a base to avoid losing businesses.

Gary referred to the City IT Department’s contest for a new City logo. He suggested they include the Commission’s efforts into that contest in order to be involved in the ending result of what that logo would look like and the Commission’s planning efforts.

Robert directed staff to add an item to the July City Newsletter for people to volunteer on these committees for approximately six months. Troy worried about the public calling with questions before staff could be ready with answers, since residents would receive their newsletters before July 1, and the commissioners might not be able to establish these committees by then. He wanted to create a page on the website, showing these committees, so everyone could stay apprised of the progress, and it might take a month or two to add the goals and purposes for each one. Tyler pointed out that they established points of contact already that evening for the committee chairs if residents had questions, but Troy still worried about receiving the phone calls. Robert offered to have his email address advertised for the article. Tyler agreed and suggested placing a general announcement in the newsletter that would direct readers to the details on the Planning Commission web page. Troy asked that it wait until he had all the information so that he could coordinate with the committees and guide the process to avoid public clamor since he would be responsible for all outcomes. He asked that the committees email him updates on their meetings. Gary suggested sending out an email announcement through SBOSS to all businesses within the City so that they were aware of these efforts. Troy asked that each committee chair prepare a summary of their goals to provide the public. He would create a place on the City website for residents to sign up for email distributions to receive updates on the progress of specific committees in which they had an interest.

Gary asked how the public would address their concerns. He wondered if they would approach the Commission during regular work meetings or at committee meetings. Kenneth told him they should contact the committee chairs. Troy cautioned them about emailings and suggested they only email the other co-chair, the Commission Chairman, and Troy rather than all commissioners.
