



City of Dallas
Planning Commission
Council Chambers - City Hall
Tuesday, January 11, 2011 - 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

President Chuck Lerwick called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Chuck Lerwick, Carol Kowash, Dave Pederson, Murray Stewart, Paul Holstege and David Shein

Commissioners Absent: Bob Wilson

Staff present: City Attorney Lane Shetterly, Community Development Director Jason Locke and Recording Secretary Kris Pierce.

SWEARING IN OF NEW PLANNING COMMISSIONERS

City Attorney Lane Shetterly gave the Oath of Office to new Commissioners David Shein and Paul Holstege.

ELECTION OF NEW PLANNING COMMISSION OFFICERS

Commissioner Lerwick opened the floor for nominations for new officers for a term of one year. Commissioner Pederson nominated Commissioner Chuck Lerwick for President. Commissioner Carol Kowash seconded the nomination. Commissioner Lerwick accepted the nomination.

Commissioner Carol Kowash moved to nominate Commissioner Dave Pederson as Vice-President. Commissioner David Shein moved to declare Commissioner Lerwick as President and Commissioner Pederson as Vice-President by acclamation. Commissioner Stewart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chuck Lerwick presented the minutes of the regular meeting of December 14, 2010. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Pederson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Locke presented materials covering land use planning from a course that was given to the Planning Commission and City Council last year. He spoke with Commissioners regarding their general role on the Planning Commission and how the planning program operates.

City Attorney Lane Shetterly reviewed with the Commissioners points of caution. He further explained Ex-Parte Contact, Bias and Conflict of Interest and noted that conversations with staff were not Ex-Parte Contact.

Commissioner Holstege asked if at some point it would be advantageous for the Commissioners to visit a site in order to make a decision. City Attorney Shetterly said generally not, although the Planning Commission could visit a site as a group.

Commissioner Shein asked if the Public Meetings Law applies to the Planning Commission as it does to the City Council. City Attorney Shetterly advised that it does and cautioned against sending e-mails and could be seen as conducting a meeting online.

Mr. Shetterly further explained a conflict of interest should be disclosed up front and a Commissioner should be sensitive to the subject matter. Commissioners were advised to contact Mr. Locke or City Attorney Shetterly if any clarification was needed.

Mr. Shetterly stated that Statements of Economic Interest are due April 15, 2011. Commissioner Pederson requested a Planning Commission work session regarding filling out the Statements of Economic Interest.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Shein expressed his appreciation of being part of the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Stewart asked if there is anything new on the horizon for the New Year. Mr. Locke commented on perhaps starting a public visioning process to explore what citizens wanted Dallas to be in 20 years, and that this was a prelude to updating the Comprehensive Plan.

STAFF COMMENTS

Jason Locke stated that activity has picked up for both commercial and residential development and would be scheduling a work session for a large new subdivision prior to the next Planning Commission meeting. He stated that a work session notification will be sent out by e-mail prior to the Thursday before the Tuesday Planning Commission meeting.

Mr. Locke further advised a pre-application conference was held this week and several more will be held for the Barberry Node. Commissioner Lerwick requested that a Zoning Map be made available in the Council Chambers for meetings.

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

APPROVED:

President

Date