

MINUTES
CITY OF DUBUQUE LONG RANGE PLANNING ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR SESSION

7:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 18, 2009
City Council Chamber, Historic Federal Building

Commissioners Present: Chairperson Charles Winterwood; Commissioners Jim Prochaska, Richard Van Iten, Dirk Voetberg, and Chad Darter.

Commissioners Excused: Commissioners Alan Vincent and Richard Stein.

Staff Members Present: Laura Carstens, David Johnson, Sheila Samuelson, and Deron Muehring.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Winterwood at 7:15 p.m.

CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE: Staff presented an Affidavit of Compliance verifying that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Iowa Open Meetings Law.

MINUTES: Motion by Van Iten, seconded by Darter, to approve the minutes of August 20, 2008, as submitted, Motion carried by the following vote: Aye – Prochaska, Van Iten, Voetberg, Darter and Winterwood; Nay – None.

PUBLIC MEETING

Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) Final Report and Implementation: Peter Arsenault, Sustainable Design Assessment Team Leader, presented the SDAT final report. Mr. Arsenault and Staff Member Carstens reviewed Dubuque's accomplishments in implementing the report's recommendations. Staff Member Sheila Samuelson presented the Sustainable Dubuque Initiative and Kevin Eipperle of Durrant reviewed the next steps for Sustainable Dubuque and implementation of the SDAT final report's recommendations.

Commissioner Voetberg questioned how obstacles to sustainability, such as City Codes, are being addressed in SDAT, the UDC, or elsewhere. Staff Member Carstens reviewed the UDC process and Staff Member Samuelson reviewed the Sustainable Dubuque process. Commissioner Voetberg asked how neighborhoods are defined. Mr. Arsenault responded that buildings and neighborhood characteristics can be defined or they can come into place on their own.

Commissioner Van Iten asked whether there were any design aspects associated with the SDAT process. He questioned whether there is a mechanism to evaluate sustainable design. Staff clarified that the SDAT report is more of a form based document, which addresses issues such as setbacks, mass, and general characteristics. The SDAT process

is a program that focuses on the principles of sustainability and how those principles can be incorporated into a community's planning process.

Commissioner Van Iten reviewed the benefits of having a volunteer design review process for new developments. He felt the SDAT final report should include language that emphasizes the aesthetic importance of buildings and what it historically means to the City and what it means to the City's future. Mr. Arsenault explained that those issues are more appropriately addressed in formed based zoning or city codes and specific design issues are not typically found in SDAT reports.

Julie Stevens, 207 Ridge Avenue, Delmar, Iowa, was present for the public meeting. She questioned whether the SDAT process or addresses brownfields. She noted funding sources for the re-use of brownfields. She also explained how important it is to preserve the aesthetics of a community's downtown and promote people living downtown. Staff Member Carstens noted the City's use of grants for brownfield redevelopment at the Port of Dubuque.

Robin Kennicker, 904 Lincoln, expressed concern that today's developers do not put enough care or detail in new development. She stated she would like to see incentives for developers to provide better quality and equitable housing. Mr. Arsenault suggested basing those incentives on design principles and having a process for review.

The Commission thanked everyone for their hard work and interest in the project. By consensus, the Commission recommended supporting the Dubuque SDAT final report and implementation of its recommendations.

ACTION ITEMS

Review and discussion of proposed FY 2010-2014 Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Budget: The Commission reviewed the proposed FY 2010-2014 CIP budget. Chairperson Winterwood commended the City Council and City Manager for including ecological restoration of the Heron Pond area, continuing inflow/infiltration programs for sanitary sewer systems, employing summer interns for storm water management, and looking at LED lighting.

Chairperson Winterwood asked if two projects not in the proposed FY2010-2014 CIP, Trolley Line Trail and Locust Street resurfacing, are still planned. Staff Member Carstens reported both are scheduled for 2009.

Commissioner Van Iten asked whether improvements based on the East/West Corridor Study would be in the CIP. Staff Member Carstens reported the study will provide cost estimates for future CIPs.

Motion by Van Iten, seconded by Darter, to recommend approval of the FY 2010-2014 CIP program budget, noting that it is consistent with the 2008 Comprehensive Plan. Motion

carried by the following vote: Aye – Prochaska, Van Iten, Voetberg, Darter and Winterwood; Nay – None.

LIAISON/SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Enterprise Zone Commission: No report.

Sustainability Task Force: Staff Member Carstens reported the next meeting will be held on March 4, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. at the Grand River Center.

ITEMS FROM PUBLIC: None.

ITEMS FROM COMMISSION:

Bee Branch Designs: City of Dubuque Civil Engineer Deron Muehring reviewed the Bee Branch Creek restoration project. He explained the conceptual design's input received at workshops and issues addressed in the project. Staff Member Muehring explained the main purpose of the project is to mitigate flooding in the area. He explained the project has three phases for construction. Phase 1 is located in the Garfield/16th Street and 16th Street Detention basin area. Phase 1 is designed to have water year round, a vegetative buffer an overlook control structure and pedestrian path. Phase 2 is a transitional area located between 21st street and Garfield Avenue. Phase 2 will have intermittent water in response to storm events and a pedestrian bridge walkway and natural plantings with open space. Phase 3 will have intermittent water and is designed to have a number of amenities for the adjacent neighborhoods. He explained that the current discussions for the third phase of the project include usable green space, parking, an amphitheater, natural plantings and a low flow channel. He explained Phase 3 will be located in close proximity to schools. He stated that the entire project will be an amenity in the area.

Commissioner Prochaska questioned the overlook control structure in the first phase of the project. Staff Member Muehring stated it will be a restrictive bladder system with pumps and a gate that opens and closes to control water as necessary. Commissioner Prochaska asked what would happen during a heavy rain event with regard to safety and keeping people out. Staff Member Muehring explained that throughout the majority of the system, water will only be in it when it rains. He explained the slope of the Bee Branch Creek Restoration Project is so low, the water will move very slowly and will not be a risk.

Commissioner Van Iten asked whether the Engineering Department looked at similar projects around the country. Staff Member Muehring confirmed other communities and projects were consulted. Commissioner Van Iten stated he felt the Bee Branch Creek Restoration Project will increase investment and property values in the area. Staff Member Muehring reiterated it will be a positive amenity to the community but will not price people out of their homes.

Kevin Eipperle, Durrant Group, stated they are currently working on a Riverfront Master Plan for the City of Keokuk. He asked whether there is an opportunity in the project for

river access or a boat marina in the future. Staff Member Muehring explained major changes would have to be made to Kerper Boulevard to accommodate that.

In response to staff questions, Staff Member Muehring stated that measures are in place to control suspended and floatant pollutants. He explained that studies have been done to assure that during construction, nothing hazardous will be encountered.

East-West Corridor Study: Staff Member Carstens explained the City's Engineering Department is working with the project consultant to hold stakeholder meetings in the next 30-60 days to review and refine options for the East/West Corridor Study. She suggested the Commission can participate in this process at one of the regular meetings.

The Commissioners discussed the study. Commissioner Van Iten noted the influx of IBM employees will have on the traffic from the west side of town to the downtown, as well as the parking ramp and shuttle services proposed for IBM workers.

The Commissioners expressed interest in participating in the study and offered to use their monthly meeting as a venue for a stakeholder meeting.

ITEMS FROM STAFF:

Meeting Time: Staff noted that there are a number of new members serving on the Commission and questioned whether the Commission would like to consider changing the meeting time. The Commission discussed possible times to hold meetings. By consensus, the Commissioners moved the meeting time to 5:30 p.m.

Election of Officers: Motion by Van Iten, seconded by Voetberg to elect Jim Prochaska as Chairperson. Motion carried by the following vote: Aye – Van Iten, Voetberg, Darter and Winterwood; Nay – None; Abstain - Prochaska.

Motion by Prochaska, seconded by Voetberg, to elect Richard Van Iten as Vice Chairperson. Motion carried by the following vote: Aye – Prochaska, Voetberg, Darter and Winterwood; Nay – None; Abstain – Van Iten.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Laura Carstens, Planning Services Manager

Adopted—April 15, 2009