

PLANO CITY COUNCIL RETREAT
August 19, 2013

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Harry LaRosiliere, Mayor
Lissa Smith, Mayor Pro Tem
Ben Harris, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem
Pat Miner
André Davidson
Jim Duggan
Patrick Gallagher
David Downs

STAFF PRESENT

Bruce Glasscock, City Manager
Frank Turner, Deputy City Manager
LaShon Ross, Deputy City Manager
Diane C. Wetherbee, City Attorney
Mark Israelson, Director of Policy and Government Relations
Diane Zucco, City Secretary

Mayor LaRosiliere convened the Council into the City Council Retreat on Monday, August 19, 2013, at 6:06 p.m., in Training Room A of the Plano Municipal Center, 1520 K Avenue. A quorum was present.

Discussion, Direction and Action Regarding Review of City of Plano Vision, Mission, Strategic Plan, Goals and Core Businesses, including Council Governance Roles and Responsibilities

Ron Holifield of Strategic Government Resources introduced the session and spoke to Council discussion of the aging of Plano and “reality versus perception.” He asked the Council to comment on what should be done to deal with aging infrastructure. The Council spoke to street repairs, screening walls and the functionality of alleyways (particularly in the older areas of the City). They spoke to determining outside funding, assessing priorities and leveraging funds. City Manager Glasscock spoke regarding the Community Investment Program and advised that Staff would provide periodical updates to Council. Deputy City Manager Turner responded to the Council regarding the patching of roadways and the timing of resurfacing, addressing the expenses associated with complete reconstruction. He spoke to development of methodology to forecast roadway repairs.

Mr. Holifield asked the Council to comment on whether or not Collin Creek Mall should remain a top goal. Deputy City Manager Turner spoke to continued discussions and the City’s dependency on the actions of the mall’s owners. City Manager Glasscock spoke to the mall’s importance to the community and Mayor LaRosiliere advised that the Council would remain open to options.

Mr. Holified asked the Council to comment on what should be done about four corner strip centers for the future. Mr. Turner provided an update of the retail inventory in the City advising regarding the occupancy rate and stated that Plano has 60 square feet per person of retail as compared to a national average of 47 square feet. He spoke to current discussions with a retail consultant and the potential to use incentive monies for public improvements. City Manager Glasscock spoke to promoting tighter code enforcement and Mayor LaRosiliere spoke to retailers being part of the effort toward neighborhood revitalization in a comprehensive plan to improve aesthetics and appearances. He spoke to holding businesses accountable with a certain amount of flexibility and the potential use of incentives. The Council spoke to meeting with developers to receive their input and stated a consensus to be flexible and encourage development. City Manager Glasscock spoke to providing incentives for public property only and the Council stated a consensus not to include this item as a major goal.

The Council took a brief recess at 7:45 p.m. and resumed discussions at 7:54 p.m.

After small group discussions, Mayor LaRosiliere spoke regarding revitalizing neighborhoods by developing a plan to target homes based on metrics (value and age) with priorities being exterior renovations and energy efficiency improvements. He spoke to utilizing an incentive based on the amount of money spent thus leveraging the homeowner's investment. Council Member Duggan spoke to making improvements to infrastructure rather than utilizing an incentive program. Council Member Gallagher spoke to the potential for a tax abatement or freeze rather than a loan program. Council Member Miner spoke to utilizing monies for structural improvements and not landscaping. Council Member Davidson spoke regarding expansion of code enforcement and stated concern that even if funding were provided, some homeowners may not have the expertise to coordinate repairs. Council Member Downs spoke in support of a joint partnership and utilizing incentives targeting the value and age of properties. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Harris spoke to a combination of punitive and incentive programs and to tracking effectiveness. The Council stated a consensus to move forward with exploration of a program to address neighborhood revitalization containing metric and analysis and to revisit possible upgrades in code enforcement following evaluation.

Mayor LaRosiliere spoke to representing the City and his goal to establish a program to bring together corporations and children in need (food services). The Council discussed how to facilitate such a program and the potential impact on Staff. Several council members expressed interest and Mayor Pro Tem Smith spoke to coordination through The Assistance Center of Collin County. Council Member Gallagher left the meeting at 8:55 p.m. and did not return. After discussion, the Council stated a consensus to hold future discussions regarding the program.

Mayor LaRosiliere spoke to his goal of engaging the youth of the City and establishing a program/board for their participation and involvement. Council Member Davidson spoke to concentrating on 11-12th grades. The Council spoke to receiving information regarding the former Youth Advisory Committee, programs in other cities and future discussion of a potential program.

Mr. Holified spoke to the Council as a team and the importance of speaking with one voice, staying unified following a split decision and working together as effectively as possible. The Council discussed their participation, input and discussion of new ideas and programs. Mayor LaRosiliere spoke to his vision of the City in 2020-30. Mr. Holified spoke to the Mayor's role in taking diverse opinions and melding them into one unified voice. He spoke to the importance of rhythm and relationship of the team.

Nothing further was discussed. Mayor LaRosiliere adjourned the meeting at 9:57 p.m.

Harry LaRosiliere, MAYOR

ATTEST

Diane Zucco, City Secretary