

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
Training Session
April 17, 2007

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Maggie Armstrong
Michael Coleman
James Dugan, 2nd Vice Chair
Carolyn Kalchthaler, Chairman
Jim Norton
Craig Perry
Janet Stovall

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Laura Williamson, 1st Vice Chair

STAFF PRESENT

Jeff Zimmerman, Long Range Planning Manager
Steve Sims, Senior Planner
Monique Coleman, Neighborhood Planner

2nd Vice Chair James Dugan opened the training session at 6:30 PM. Chairman Carolyn Kalchthaler arrived at 6:50 PM.

Agenda Item 1 – Overview and Discussion – Comprehensive Plan

Mr. Jeff Zimmerman, Long Range Planning Manager and Mr. Steve Sims, Senior Planner made a presentation about the Comprehensive Plan. The presentation focused on the general purpose of Comprehensive Plans along with the format of the document, the ten elements and the policy statements.

There was much discussion regarding the Housing Element and the possibility of adding more guidance on revitalization and new construction in older neighborhoods. Staff was asked to facilitate a discussion of this topic at a future a work session.

Agenda Item 2 – Overview and Discussion – Neighborhood Planning

Ms. Monique Coleman, Neighborhood Planner, presented the Neighborhood Planning Program. She discussed projects that Neighborhood Planning currently has underway, along with the history of the program. Ms. Coleman distributed a brochure entitled "Residents Guide" to the commission that contained contact information for new and existing residents for municipal and utility services in Plano.

Overall, the commission expressed strong support for the Neighborhood Planning Program. Members asked about the success of past planning efforts in regards to addressing resident concerns, and if these neighborhoods are still active after the process has been completed. Ms. Coleman and Mr. Zimmerman noted that the City is responsible for carrying out some of the recommendations from each plan. There are other recommendations from the plans that require further actions by the residents. Some neighborhood groups have remained active, others have not. Some of the same neighborhoods are now considering ways to reactivate and become more involved.

The commission also expressed great interest in the "Residents Guide" and suggested that it should be made available to all residents. The commission stated that the brochure could be a useful tool for realtors to explain the services and facilities provided by the City of Plano to prospective homebuyers. Staff indicated that it would pass the suggestions on to the Public Information Department which guides City's public awareness efforts.

Chairman Kalchthaler adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Planning & Zoning Commissioner

xc: Honorable Mayor and City Council
Thomas H. Muehlenbeck, City Manager