

**City of Lake Forest Park  
Planning Commission  
Regular Meeting Summary  
17425 Ballinger Way NE—Council Chambers  
Date: June 3, 2014**

**Planning Commissioners present:** Chair Ray Holmdahl; Vice-Chair Jon Lebo; Doug Gochanour; Joel Paisner; Semra Riddle; Jean Maixner; and Richard Saunders

**Environmental Quality Commissioners present:** Vice-Chair Lisa Wathne; Eva Kammel; Janet Norem; Chris Lee; Carl Cook; Jean Thomas; Mark Phillips, City Council Liaison to the Environmental Quality Commission

**Staff and others present:** Mark Steve Bennett, Planning Director; Ande Flower, Assistant Planner

**Planning Commissioners absent:** Connie Holloway

**Environmental Quality Commissioners absent:** Chair Andy Bates; David Farkas; Bill Leon

**Call to order:** 7:03 PM

**Approval of Meeting Agenda:** Chair Holmdahl asked to amend the agenda to include discussion of the recently drafted Planning Commission 2014 Annual Report. Cmr. Gochanour motioned to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Cmr. Saunders and approved unanimously.

**Approval of meeting minutes:** Meeting notes were reviewed for April 1, 2014. Cmr. Gochanour moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Cmr. Lebo and approved unanimously.

Meeting notes for May 6, 2014. Cmr. Gochanour moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Cmr. Lebo and approved unanimously.

**Old Business:**

Comprehensive Plan Update

EQC Vice-Chair Wathne described how the EQC developed the first draft of the Comprehensive Plan Environmental Element. She shared her enthusiasm with protecting ecosystems as a larger goal than a focus on individual pieces of the environment. There was discussion and enthusiasm for working as a team among Commissions towards the larger goals.

The proposed policies for water quality stirred a lively discussion regarding storm water and streams. Members of the EQC committed to work through the language and clarify intended goals.

Cmr. Riddle suggested expanding the language from ‘solar energy’ to ‘alternative energy’ in order to remain open to future possibilities. She also suggested focusing on incentivizing larger

goals, such as solar community projects. There was a question about whether zoning would preclude the possibility for some alternative energy options. Mr. Bennett suggested that the EQC could recommend an amendment to the zoning code for creating the means of alternative energy. Cmr. Maixner encouraged the EQC to bolster their efforts by including public education for sustainable practices.

Cmr. Lebo asked the EQC “what would we look like if we would be considered an environmentally sustainable city?” From this, he suggested considering drafting a bullet list necessary to envision becoming a role model for sustainability. Cmr. Riddle suggested adding a vision statement to each point in the briefing. Mr. Bennett said that there may soon be county-wide policies in place that could encourage us as a city to establish targets and strategies to increase sustainability.

Members of the EQC described an additional section not included in the available briefing which addresses air and noise quality, including the effects of wood burning.

It was suggested that the City could be a role model, starting with City Hall, and community awareness could grow. Mr. Bennett invited Cmr.s to volunteer for upcoming outreach events for visioning with the consultants including at the Farmer’s Market the following Sunday, June 8th. Cmr. Maixner mentioned that some members of the Economic Development Commission might like to participate. Cmr. Riddle offered to volunteer on June 8<sup>th</sup>, and Cmr. Saunders said he might be able to join, also.

## **New Business**

### Planning Commission 2014 Annual Report

Cmr. Paisner made a motion to adopt the draft report and share it with the Council. The motion was seconded by Cmr. Riddle and approved unanimously.

## **Reports/Announcements:**

Cmr. Maixner, liaison to the Economic Development Commission shared a concern on behalf of the EDC that their participation is not planned until late in the process. Mr. Bennett said that the Planning Commission could have an informal meeting with EDC, and reminded the Commission that that the EDC have begun meeting with the City Council. A next step may be to have the EDC develop a briefing similar to what the EQC has done for today’s meeting. Councilman Phillips suggested that the PC could be involved sooner than later.

Chair Holmdahl suggested arranging an informal introduction during a PC meeting with the EDC rather than a joint meeting. Cmr. Maixner added that the EDC Commissioners take their role seriously and that they are looking for more guidance. Mr. Bennett committed to arrange meeting for EDC Commissioners with City staff to better understand how the scope has evolved.

Cmr. Saunders, CSC liaison, shared information from his participation with the Community Services Commission. He said he would let the CSC know about the upcoming Farmer’s Market outreach.

Mr. Bennett gave an update for the Southern Gateway Village permit process. He then gave an update from the Council, and welcomed PC participation at the next Council meeting, June 12<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Bennett anticipates that from the upcoming Council meeting, a more finalized comprehensive plan update schedule is expected, as well as a focus to increase the “invitation” to contribute to the visioning process among residents.

**Adjournment:** 9: 15 PM

APPROVED:

Ray Holmdahl  
Ray Holmdahl, Chair