

**City of Lake Forest Park
Planning Commission
Regular Meeting Summary
17425 Ballinger Way NE—Council Chambers
Date: July 15, 2014**

Planning Commissioners present: Chair Ray Holmdahl; Doug Gochanour; Joel Paisner; Semra Riddle; Jean Maixner; and Richard Saunders

Transportation Commissioners present: Gary Bass; Jennifer King; Dale Sanderson

Economic Development Commissioners present: Robert Henderson; David Chow

Staff and others present: Stacy Trussler, WSDOT Urban Planning Director; Leah Bolotin, WSDOT Senior Planner; Pete Rose, City Administrator; Mayor Mary Jane Goss; Mark Phillips, City Council Liaison to the Environmental Quality Commission; Oley “Rocky” Oliver; Steve Bennett, Planning Director; Ande Flower, Assistant Planner

Planning Commissioners absent: Vice-Chair Jon Lebo; Connie Holloway

Call to order: 7:03 PM

Approval of Meeting Agenda: Cmr. Gochanour motioned to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Cmr. Riddle and approved unanimously.

Approval of meeting minutes: Meeting notes were reviewed for June 17, 2014. Cmr. Saunders moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Cmr. Gochanour and approved unanimously.

Public Comment: Chair Holmdahl introduced Rocky Oliver as a potential Planning Commissioner. Mr. Oliver briefly introduced himself to the Commission.

Old Business:

Comprehensive Plan Update

Stacy Trussler, WSDOT Urban Planning Director, introduced the new WSDOT program focused on stronger relationships with municipalities. Both Ms. Trussler and Leah Bolotin, WSDOT Senior Planner stressed that they would like to be engaged and working solutions together instead of reviewing Comprehensive Plans only after they’ve been drafted.

Cmr. Paisner stated that the two state-road corridors bisect the city. Ms. Trussler offered that she could act as an in-road to the large organization that is WSDOT. Ms. Bolotin added that their goal is to better understand our city’s goals and that by having shared goals; opportunities are enhanced, including access to Federal grants. It is understood that having partners when applying for grants increases those opportunities greatly. It would be best if LFP could partner with regional neighbors who share goals along corridors.

1 Mr. Bennett suggested that it might be best to use this opportunity to talk about issues related to
2 the two state-road corridors bisect the city. The Mayor is currently working with neighbors,
3 through SEASHORE. Cmr. Holmdahl asked about linking with future light rail stops. Cmr.
4 Riddle and Cmr. Maixner brought up the impact of tolling now and in the future. Cmr. Trussler
5 talked about the Transportation Futures Study, funded by King County which analyses tolling
6 impacts.

7
8 It was mentioned that Ballinger Way is considered the bikeway from the interurban trail to the
9 Burke Gilman Trail. Transportation Cmr. King brought up the population pressure east of the
10 city paired with increasing toll avoiders once I-90 is tolled. City Administrator Rose raised the
11 issue of noise and need for protected crossings, as well as a need for sidewalks. Without a park
12 and ride, he added, this community is not able to champion transit options.

13
14 Commissioners and WSDOT representatives discussed the conflict between the need for a
15 physical noise barrier and the desire to not lose Lake Forest Park's character. Cmr. Paisner asked
16 for more information about the City's attempt to have a park and ride. Transportation Cmr. King
17 suggested that the Town Center is the ideal location. Ms. Bolotin raised the multi-partnership
18 effort that has resulted in the Northgate's park and ride as an example. Ms. Trussler said that
19 with their research, it has been discovered that each park and ride in the region has a unique story
20 of funding and partnership.

21
22 There was discussion about how traffic bottle necks in LFP. Pete Rose cautioned that any
23 suggestion of widening the roads would be to go through the back yards along SR522 and the
24 front yards along SR104. Mayor Goss stressed that LFP needs to partner with regional groups to
25 help fix the system. She continued, we don't have the kind of matching funds that neighboring
26 cities can afford, yet the highways in our city represent a gap in the system. She then added that
27 the corridor in our city represents opportunities for economic development.

28
29 Mayor Goss explained that most of Federal transportation money goes to PSRC, which then
30 awards the money competitively. There is concern that the grant competition criteria for money
31 does not favor the smaller cities, but rather has a focus on centers. Ms. Trussler stated that she
32 has a seat on the PSRC Transportation and Growth Management Policy Boards, and is an
33 alternate for the PSRC Executive Board.

34
35 Discussion continued with brainstorming and problem-solving, including the idea for elevation
36 of either roadways or transit centers. Pedestrian systems were discussed and it was suggested that
37 a trail system overlap with vehicular systems. There was a suggestion that Forest Park Drive
38 would make a safer route for bikes than Perkins Way.

39
40 Chair Holmdahl reviewed current major issues:

- 41 • SR 522 & SR 104 and compatibility with land-use
- 42 • Connections to future light rail that are safe and reasonable
- 43 • Creation of pedestrian systems, sidewalks and trails
- 44 • Develop a park & ride

1 Mr. Bennett brought up the idea of a lid over Bothell Way, similar to Mercer Island. Cmr. Riddle
2 added that with that the lid could be mid-height with gracious pedestrian connection. A member
3 of the public suggested that the strongest opportunity might be to improve SR 104.

4
5 Ms. Trussler stated her understanding of what she will take away from this meeting:

- 6 • More involvement with the Transportation Futures Study (due at the end of 2015)
7 research needed—we could influence scoping; WSDOT offered to source a better contact
- 8 • Better conversation with Sound Transit for Light Rail Stations; WSDOT has a
9 representative who sits on the Sound Transit Board, also, they can connect the City with a
10 staff liaison to discuss options to improve east-west connectivity.
- 11 • Better idea for multi-modal centers funding opportunities so that the City can be
12 competitive; WSDOT can help us frame our goals around the criteria.
- 13 • SEASHORE continued partnership was encouraged.

14
15 Ms. Trussler encouraged the City to look at other park and ride successes in Kent and Northgate
16 for some ideas.

17
18 Ms. Bolotin offered to connect the City with a contact who could provide technical assistance for
19 local programs, who can help with non-motorized options and funding. She said that she would
20 like to work with us on the Comprehensive Plan so that our ideas could get into the long-range
21 planning and corridor studies (if there are any funded in the future) which can be the first step
22 toward obtaining project funding. She asked for contact information for the City consultants,
23 Studio 3MW. Mr. Bennett offered to keep WSDOT engaged throughout the process, especially
24 when we are talking about transportation and land-use issues.

25
26 Chair Holmdahl asked staff to go to website and find a contact and report back and to include
27 WSDOT through the process of updating the LFP Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Bolotin reaffirmed
28 that local programs people can provide the technical skills to help the city develop ideas and
29 plans. Ms. Trussler stated that this meeting has been exploratory and they have shown up to
30 listen to ideas. Cmr. Riddle expressed gratitude on behalf of the Planning Commission for
31 WSDOT representatives having taken time and having the willingness to commit to help
32 discover better ways to approach these challenges.

33
34 Update on Speakers Bureau Scheduled Activities and Revised Materials

35 Mr. Bennett mentioned the meetings that were coming up. He asked for any additional feedback
36 on the training materials.

37
38 Updates from Liaisons to Other Commissions

39 Cmr. Saunders asked for a review of the CSC draft to be included in the agenda for the next
40 meeting. Cmr. Maixner reported that the EDC has continued making progress towards a draft.

41
42 **Reports/Announcements:**

43 Updates on South Gateway

44 Mr. Bennett reported that the demolition is complete and that Pulte has chosen a name for the
45 neighborhood: 12 Degrees North.

1 Relevant City Council Agenda Items and Activities

2 Mr. Bennett briefly described the Council review of the draft approach to community
3 engagement. Council brought up additional issues to add and Mr. Bennett offered to share the
4 document that came out of that. Mark mentioned that the Committee of the Whole meeting will
5 be coming up soon. The focus is transportation and will be open to the public.
6

7 Marijuana Regulations

8 Mr. Bennett mentioned that Council is interested in the Planning Commission's perspective on
9 some issues regarding potential regulations as the moratorium will soon end.
10

11 Update from Commission Chairs Meeting

12 Chair Holmdahl described the issues and projects raised in the meeting. Most of the
13 Commissions are focused on their draft chapters Comprehensive Plan updates.
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15

16 **Adjournment:** 9: 01 PM
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20 APPROVED:

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22 Ray Holmdahl, Chair
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