

**MINUTES OF THE BROOKLYN PARK PLANNING COMMISSION  
WORK SESSION**

June 24, 2009

**Approved Minutes**

Those present were: Commissioners Conn, Holm, Jechorek, Johansen, Lessard, Nguyen, Sullivan, Lessard; Council Member Gates; Planning Director Sherman; and Senior Planner Larson.

Those excused were: Commissioners Johnson and Kupka

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Holm called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

**2. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Commission Role**

Planning Director Sherman stated that this item was to refresh the commission on the roles of the commissioners. One role of the commission is to gather public comments.

Commissioner Nguyen asked about emailing. Sherman stated that they cannot email each other, but they are welcome to email staff. Nguyen noted that during the course of a discussion, he often will think of additional questions or issues that he would not have thought of otherwise. Commissioner Jechorek stated that she agreed.

Commissioner Lessard stated that he would like more advanced discussion about projects.

Commissioner Holm stated that he is often out of town for the weekend, usually leaving before a packet arrives. Commissioner Lessard suggested delivering the packets Thursday night instead.

Commissioner Lessard also suggested the Commission look at things from a broader perspective and see the effects on other things, like storm water ponds. Commissioner Conn stated that ponds are always controversial. Conn also stated the variance process is difficult because they have to stick to the criteria. Planner Larson asked the Commissioners to visit sites, especially in variances, because the staff reports are only so descriptive.

Sherman stated that they will try to anticipate questions, like the cell tower map that was used at the Council this week. She stated that disagreement is good. Commissioner Conn asked that everyone talk because opening up the item for discussion is awkward when no one wants to talk. He requested that everyone state their reason for voting against something. He also requested that Commissioners bring up general topics for the Commission to look at.

Commissioner Jechorek stated that she will often ask questions that she knows the answers to for the benefit of the audience.

Larson stated that sometimes staff does not necessarily like a project, but because the proposal meets City Code, the recommendation is for approval. Staff will work to make the project the best it can be. Council Member Gates stated that he would like that information.

Commissioner Lessard asked about City projects. He asked if he feels the money is best spent elsewhere, can he suggest it. Sherman stated that the role of the Commission is to interpret the Zoning Code and the budget issues are left to the Council. Commissioner Johansen added the Budget Advisory Committee and the CLIC has roles for that.

Commissioner Jechorek asked if the Commission has the ability to deny a project based on the Comprehensive Plan. Sherman stated they do. Larson cited an example of how a shopping mall was denied in Lawrence, Kansas, based on the strong policy statements that downtown will be the main retail area in the community.

## **B. City Manager's Memo**

Planning Director Sherman stated the City Manager put the memo together after the joint Council-Commission meeting. Some of the items, such as housing for all, came from the Mayor shortly after the meeting.

Commissioner Lessard stated that he does not remember discussing design standards. Sherman stated that this came from the Council's goals. She added that these are things that the Council would like the commissions to work on over the next few years.

## **C. Agenda Changes**

Planning Director Sherman stated that she would like to add Reports of the Liaisons to the agenda. Council Member Gates stated that no matter how boring the subject matter, it is still important to share the information.

Commissioner Jechorek suggested that the reports be done at the work sessions.

Sherman reminded the Commissioners to check their emails regularly.

## **D. Parking Regulations**

Planning Director Sherman stated that there have been several staff-level discussions regarding parking. She stated that she wants input on garage sizes. Chair Holm stated the size should stay because people still have a lot of stuff.

Commissioner Jechorek stated that the calculations should be reviewed because office designs today are smaller than they were several years ago.

Sherman asked about the ten-foot wide retail spaces. Commissioner Conn stated that he likes the wide spaces. Commissioner Johansen stated that he likes the idea of smaller spaces in the infrequently used area.

Sherman asked about the loading dock requirements. Several Commissioners stated that some docks would be nice.

**3. INFORMATION ITEMS – none.**

**4. OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. Minutes from March 25, 2009, and April 8, 2009, work sessions.**

MOTION CONN, SECOND JOHANSEN, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 25, 2009, AND APRIL 8, 2009, WORK SESSIONS. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**B. City Council Update.**

Planning Director Sherman informed the Commission about the items that were reviewed at the City Council meeting on June 22, 2009.

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

With the consent of the Commission, Chair Holm adjourned the meeting at 9:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Todd A. Larson,  
Senior Planner