



**PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
MAY 22, 2018**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Lynn Motley, Vice-Chairperson Joshua Spare, Secretary John Lopez, Commissioners Janie Adhikari, Eduardo Carranza, Shawn Connor, Clayton Fisher, Max Coleman, Eduardo Carranza.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Commissioner Cheryl Smith was not present due to already having a commitment working as Election Judge for Special Runoff Election for “2018 Primary”.

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Steve Norwood, Director of Development Services, David Jones, Chief City Planner, Savannah Ware, Senior Planner, Rudy Paras, Planning Intern, Daon Stephens, Transportation Planner, Walter Shumac, Transportation Director, Mark Dempsey, Deputy City Attorney, Chris Hartmann, Executive Assistant.

Chairperson Motley called the meeting to order in the City Council Briefing Room in the City Hall Building at 5:30 p.m.

Items for Discussion:

MTP180501 – Master Transportation Plan Amendment – Adoption of 2018 Master Transportation Plan and Thoroughfare Map. Chief City Planner David Jones presented the case report and gave a Power Point presentation to approve an update to the 2010 Master Transportation Plan Thoroughfare Map and an update to Article 23 of the Unified Development Code. The applicant is the City of Grand Prairie.

CPA180504 – Comprehensive Plan Amendment – Adoption of the 2018 Comprehensive Plan. Chief City Planner David Jones presented the case report and gave a Power Point presentation to approve an update of the 2010 Comprehensive Plan. The applicant is the City of Grand Prairie.

The Commission was briefed on the 2018 Comprehensive Plan at their Planning and Zoning meeting of May 7th, the Commission expressed several concerns on the updates. The updates and builds on the 2010 Comprehensive Plan, with several goals, objectives and recommendations either carried over or clarified. This is the second of four public meetings at which the draft 2018 Comprehensive Plan will be considered. The final document will go to City Council for adoption on June 19, 2018.

Freese and Nichols Eddie Haas, Tiffany McCloud, Kevin St. Jakes, and Wendy Shabay, were present to answer questions and address the Commission concerns.

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION WORKSHOP MINUTES, MAY 22, 2018

Chairman Motley stated we are here tonight to make sure the Commission has a clear understanding on what the plan is calling for the future of this city. He would also like for Dr. Susan Simpson Hull Grand Prairie ISD Superintendent to have the opportunity to take the survey, since they are a huge transit provider for the citizens of Grand Prairie.

Mr. Norwood noted Commissioner Smith could not be present due to already having a commitment working as Election Judge for Special Runoff Election for “2018 Primary”. Commissioner Smith submitted a list of concerns with regard to both Master Transportation Plan & Comprehensive Plan for Next 20 Years. 1) Request Study of similar cities with same geographical area and population on what has been successful before moving forward with Master Transportation Plan; 2) Form a Special Task Force which includes two parts; Cities with similar dynamics & Transportation Issues and Citizen Participation from ever City Council District and Mayors Office; 3) To be in step with other surrounding cities to draw families to live here, we need to ensure that we are concerned about improving our Environment by distributing larger recycle bins with lids as other cities such as Arlington, Mansfield and some parts of Dallas to name a few.

Eddie Hass stated they would like to touch on the Commissions concerns from the Planning Commission meeting of May 7th. He apologized to the Commission for not getting their input and having them involved with their research, but assures the Commission the survey was statically valid.

Chairman Motley asked what we are achieving with the Comp Plan, are we are using the 2010 Comp Plan along with the new findings of the 2018 Comp Plan and Transportation Plan. Mr. Hass replied yes, we are basically looking at the corridors of the city as an addition to the active 2010 Comp Plan.

Chairman Motley said there is a great interest on walking trails and bicycle trails, he wished there were more interest in these areas we should focus more on what is going to make a difference to our city, and we should also look at some type of transit or high speed rail. Kevin St. James stated the Transportation Plan addresses some of these issues.

Commissioner Spare stated there should be more discussion, and mention in the plan, on a future North/South transit system. Mr. St. James stated a feasibility study could be conducted and placed on the Thoroughfare Plan. Steve Norwood stated there is a Charter that states we cannot spend any money on a transit rail system in Grand Prairie.

Mr. St. James noted their survey, study, engagements, and public input was to reach out to different communities, different sectors, and diverse demographics. Commissioner Connor asked if they took age, ethnicity, different areas of town, events, etc. into consideration. Wendy Shabay said they used the City’s Facebook, Twitter, and Internet Website, the study was

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION WORKSHOP MINUTES, MAY 22, 2018

conducted from June to August of 2017, they attended several events throughout the city based on the City's calendar. Chairman Motley said the surveys should have been conducted year round instead of just a specific time. Commissioner Lopez said he would have liked for them to visit other events, such as the Cinco de Mayo, May Fest, and GPIS. Wendy Shabay stated the Comp Plan is a living document and the City should continue to survey events to see if the ideas have change, this is a work in progress, and what is being presented today is in draft mode that can change.

Chairman Motley said there are a lot of citizens in Grand Prairie who believe a transportation system is very important why not talk to the school district, a major stake holder with their bus service in this city, he does not believe the input received is enough to conclude this study.

Commissioner Fisher asked at what point do we draw a conclusion on the survey, he would like the opportunity to be able to speak with his neighborhood and gather their input as their representation as a Commissioner. Commissioner Spare stated no HOA was involved in this research and he too would like the opportunity to reach out to his neighborhood the survey should have been on each area of town. He said access to transit and bike trails at Lynn Creek Park is a major hub and there is no mentioned of this in the plan we need to add this to this document, it seem to him that their community south of Joe Pool Lake was not considered in this plan.

Mr. St. James said the next step could be that we uploaded the draft Comp Plan and Transportation Plan to the City's website and let the citizens review the documents for more input.

After some discussion, Chairman Motley noted the Mater Transportation and Comprehensive Plans would be brought back in the future, after further review, for consideration.

Commissioners Comments: None

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Lynn Motley, Chairperson

ATTEST:

John Lopez, Secretary