

URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL

PLANNING COMMITTEE SUMMARY

June 16, 2009

The Planning Committee was convened at 1:00 PM. All committee members were present. CM Martin attended as a non voting member.

I. Loudon Ave. Widening Project - James

A written update was included in today's packet. CM James gave some brief comments on the update. CM Gorton asked if she was comfortable with this update being submitted as the final report. James responded no, she would like to be able to provide another follow up. Gorton asked for an approximate timeline, to which James replied hopefully next week.

CM Gorton opened the floor to questions or discussion of this item and there was none.

2. Downtown Master Plan

The packet included status report of 16 recommendations from the plan and a brief overview of "formed based building" guidelines. CM Gorton announced a joint Planning Committee, Planning Commission workshop at 9:00 a.m. on June 30, 2009 at the library. Chris King, Planning to have a presentation. Paul Schoninger, council office staff distributed handouts showing status of each recommendation. He suggested addressing any questions today or have Harold Tate, DDA give a presentation at a later date.

CM James asked why Mr. Tate was not at today's Planning Committee meeting and was told he was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict.

CM Lawless said she would like to see the council adopt the downtown master plan perhaps via a resolution.

CM Beard asked Lawless about each individual recommendation or if the plan should be adopted in its entirety.

CM James said DDA was an authority referring to article 40 of the Code of Ordinances and did not understand the need for council to adopt its plan.

CM Gorton explained the council has the option of voting on an item referred to a committee.

CM Stinnett said the question was how to implement the list of recommendations. He said we need to review the list and check off issues that may have already been dealt with.

CM McChord talked about some boards being in more of an advisory capacity and he would like to see the full council recognize perhaps a flaw that DDA is an authority. He would like to see more in-depth research of the downtown master plan and does not recommend adopting it across the board.

CM Lawless agreed some of the recommendations are vague but said she was in favor of adopting the master plan as a reference guide on how to move forward.

Motion by Lawless to move forward to the full council a request to adopt the downtown master plan, seconded by Blues

Discussion:

CM Martin said the plan is a visionary concept and not an action plan. He said council should decide to adopt and provide DDA instructions in more of a strategic plan on how to carry out the recommendations. He said at this stage, the plan is more of a frame work.

CM James provided committee members with a copy of article 40 talking about creation of DDA. She asked Mr. King for background on establishment of DDA. He said DDA was created as an agency dedicated specifically to downtown. James questioned the intention of voting to adopt the master plan.

CM Beard said a problem with the plan was it did not reach outside the realm of downtown and said some items proposed were not acceptable and adopting all the recommendations is very finite. He agrees with some recommendations but not all.

CM Blues explained why he seconded the motion on the floor, saying he agrees the council should further review each recommendation. He agreed adoption would provide council with goals and directions and is in favor of moving the plan forward.

CM Lawless said even though DDA spearheaded the study they do not have the ability to carry out the entire plan, she would like to see other entities brought on board to share in implementation.

CM James said she was not against adopting the plan, but rather establishment of power and authority, referring to Article 40 and council's role. She said she wants to ensure DDA has the authority to do what it needs to do.

CM Feigel suggested checking the statue, the authority of DDA, and council's role.

CM Gorton covered each recommendation and what if anything has been done so far on each of them. She asked Mr. King what is his sense on what's happening with them. He agreed with recommendation to review, seeing what's already been done and what remains to be accomplished. Harold Tate was now in chambers. CM Gorton asked him to comment. He told the committee some of the recommendations did not require council approval and have been acted on; however, there are some that require council's help.

Mr. King said the Planning Commission was very supportive of the recommendations but did not agree with all the details of them.

CM James cautioned about assuming what DDA's role is, authority or advisory and about resending portion of article 40 regarding council's role.

CM Martin talked about DDA and his perception regarding its purpose and role. He said it is not necessarily a governmental authority. He explained the need to adopt in order to give direction because council approves spending and has a large stake in the downtown master plan, adding DDA has to come to council for funds to pursue the plan. He reiterated, it's a vision document and encourage the committee to vote to adopt.

CM Blues added the ultimate authority is the council who needs to be aggressively involved in downtown development.

VM Gray commented this action is important and hopes Mr. Tate is an advocate for council support of the plan.

Motion by Lawless to move forward to the full council a request to adopt the downtown master plan, seconded by Blues, passed 8 in favor, 1 nay by CM James

3. Items referred to Committee

Motion to remove Extended Stay Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment, seconded by CM James, passed without dissent.

Motion to adjourn at 2:47 pm