

**Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes
APRIL 20, 2017**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Harper at 6:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present: Ulbrich, Stoneberg, Greenberg, Bontrager, Chair Harper

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Rick Pearson, AICP, Community Development Coordinator
John Tingley, Assistant to the City Manager

#5A: OLD BUSINESS: Comprehensive Plan – OPEN HOUSE

5. Rick Pearson, Community Development Coordinator, opened the meeting explaining that this is an Open House and defined what the Comprehensive Plan is. Announced that this is not a public hearing and none are scheduled for this meeting. Explained what the goals of the comp plan will include, i.e. housing, transportation, employment, land use, water resources, parks and recreation and urban design. Economic competitiveness and implementation will also be addressed. Reviewed forecasts from Metropolitan Council and what they see in Robbinsdale's future.
6. Mr. Pearson reviewed each category: reviewed sites for possible redevelopment in light of light rail, with commercial on lower level and apartments or condos above with underground parking; reviewed possible parking ramp at Hubbard Ave. Using aerial maps, he pointed out areas and sites where development has occurred and where development could occur in the future.
7. Mr. Pearson continued to explain that areas/sites considered for redevelopment are available and many for upscale housing and commercial developments. Projects relying on developers. Recommendations for bike lanes along 36th and 42nd Avenues with Hennepin County adopting some of these ideas as well.
8. Mr. Pearson closed by stating that the Comp Plan is a policy document designed to guide how development occurs not designing it.
9. Mr. Pearson clarified that this is not a public hearing but an Open House. Here to gather comments from residents regarding plans for the future of Robbinsdale.
10. **Question - Noble Ave Project: What input did residents have for this project?**
11. *Mr. Pearson replied that the decision is part of the Capital Improvement Plans that are approved by the City Council after a public hearing process where designs are presented, public engagement for discussion/changes with final approval by the council. Explained zoning requirements/standards needed by developers. Explained the process of how residents have a voice in projects and how it is written into the Comp Plan.*

12. **Question – Can you define what high, medium, low density is so everyone understands and can give you more feedback?**
13. *Mr. Pearson provided examples of density from around the city.*
14. Mr. Pearson thanked the residents for coming and that he will be available to answer questions after the meeting.
15. OPEN HOUSE COMMENCED
16. **WRITTEN COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM OPEN HOUSE:**
 1. Submitted anonymously:
Water Resources:
 - Equal focus and budgeting for all of our water resources Crystal Lake, Ryan Lake, Shingle Creek, Lower Twin, etc.
 - More surface water alteration on our roads – for example where there is known flooding
 - Policy should discuss necessary protections during demolition and construction (this should result in eventual updating our required steps to pull demolition and building permitsHousing:
 - I would like to see more of our open/vacant lots categorized as medium density – duplexes or small scale apartments rather than just single family
 - More mixed income housing that includes market rate/high amenity apartmentsLand Use:
 - What are the land use features that the future land use map is based on?
 - How will our downtown/commercial district grow? Have you considered making a more concerted effort at connecting the discontinuous commercial that is already occurring on Broadway between downtown and the Terrace Mall site?
 - Acknowledge and protect the cultural and built heritage of our city. Create a local designation and preservation ordinance (there are multiple historic resources identified in the Bottineau historic reserve survey – these resources should be locally designated along with other previously identified historic resources.
 - Preservation should be a value of our city.
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Transportation:

- Fewer surface parking lots in downtown
- Minimize widths of residential streets and use bump outs and traffic circle to naturally calm traffic
- Bring/extend the street car to Robbinsdale
- Police policy should be to enforce traffic laws on Robbinsdale streets – not the state highway
- Less focus on cars – more focus on bikes, transit, walking. Cars are not the future

Parks & Rec:

- Our city should have a dog park
- Our city should offer more adult sports leagues – i.e. womens volleyball, broomball, etc.
- A community center w/gym facilities would be nice. Potentially partner w/YMCA to build a center

Economic Competitiveness & Resiliency:

- We need to bring in high paying jobs – not just part-time retail employment
- We should focus on market niches – like healthcare hub or eat street (with more than just Travail)

Urban Design:

- Discussion of massing and architectural articulation should be included in our comp plan
- Urban design should not be overlooked in this plan. A discussion of the public realm is necessary.

More public input is needed on this process. Transparency is needed in this process.

2. WHERE DO YOU SEE ROBBINSDALE IN THE YEAR 2040? WRITTEN COMMENTS

- Vibrant downtown
- A colorful world – 6 years old now
- Enforcement of plan when in place
- Leadership reflects actual population demographics – more females and diversity on commissions and on the council
- Browner. More density developed redevelopment
- Happy Place – 8 years old now
- As a progressive, forward thinking community that embraces diversity of that population
- Reduction in crime. More single family homes. Positive improve improvements to schools, updated Robin Center

3. WRITTEN COMMENTS FROM LAND USE PLAN MAP:

- More resources' should be dedicated to all lakes in our city
- I would like to see a bike path down the middle of 81. Its well-lit and safe at night.

- Improving Robin Center: stores, crime, more interesting shops
- Broadway should become our commercial corridor – residential should be shifted behind the commercial
- Pedestrian bridge over county road 81. County Road 81 still divides Robbinsdale.
- Comprehensive Plan must acknowledge historic properties and put forth a plan for protection.
- Our city's Comprehensive Plan needs to acknowledge our historical properties.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

17. Roll Call: Ulbrich, Stoneberg, Greenberg, Bontrager, Chair Harper. All present.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

18. **MOTION** by Commissioner Bontrager, seconded by Commissioner Ulbrich to approve the meeting minutes of February 16, 2017. **All voted in favor and the motion carried.**

#6B: NEW BUSINESS:

19. None

#7A: OTHER BUSINESS:

20. Information Only – Project Updates

#8: ADJOURNMENT:

21. **MOTION** by Chair Harper, seconded by Commissioner Bontrager to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. **The vote was 5-0 and the motion carried.**

Rick Pearson, AICP, Community Development Coordinator