

**STILLWATER PLANNING COMMISSION SUMMARY
REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 20, 2017
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OKLAHOMA OPEN MEETING
LAW, THE AGENDA WAS POSTED JUNE 16, 2017 IN THE
MUNICIPAL BUILDING AT 723 SOUTH LEWIS STREET**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brad Rickelman, Vice-Chair
Dusty Lane, Member
Mike Buchert, Member
Ariel Ross, Member

STAFF PRESENT

Paula Dennison, Development Services Director
Tom Coots, Planner I
Patricia Evans, Planner II
Cindy Gibson, Administrative Coordinator

MEMBERS ABSENT

Zelte Wilkins, Member

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER.

Vice-Chair Rickelman called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

2. PLANS/POLICES/ORDINANCES FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

- a. City of Stillwater, discussion of walkability concept and potential application. **Dennison**

Mrs. Paula Dennison, Development Services Director, presents information regarding walkability within the community.

Paula advises the Planning Commission on the following:

- The City of Stillwater passed a Multi-Modal Transportation Policy in March of 2016 which encourages certain streets to be designed to provide transportation modes for all types of transportation.
- After the Multi-Modal Policy was passed, the Bike and Pedestrian Ad-Hoc Committee was formed which included around 40 citizens who saw a need for a focus on bicycling and walking opportunities throughout the community.
- Another is the Stillwater Transportation Enhancement Plan which is very heavy on automobiles.
- The update in which the City is currently in the midst of is going to incorporate ideas from the Bike and Pedestrian Ad-Hoc Committee (BPAC), the Bicycles and Multi-Path Plan, and will holistically look at the Multi-Modal Transportation Policy in order to evaluate where, what, and how people move in and throughout the community.

Paula asks for the Planning Commission's thoughts.

Commissioner Ross advises that she likes the concept as she walks or rides a bicycle more than she drives.

Commissioner Buchert advises that the concept seems as it will work well in the Form Based Codes area and wants to make sure that adjustments do not need to be made within the area, specifically within transition areas and areas with glass fronts. Commissioner Buchert also states that incorporating this plan to a greater degree within downtown Stillwater and the OSU campus would be important.

Commissioner Buchert asks where the funding would come from and how that would be implemented. He states that these types of plans the City of Stillwater has done in the past have been excellent but that the question always remains where the funding comes from in order to implement the trails and to update the sidewalks to make them ADA compliant. Commissioner Buchert goes on to say that the streets would also need work and there needs to be a balance between private and public funding.

Commissioner Lane states that it is a great concept and is a wave of the future. He states that he would not be opposed to mandatory parks but this would cause questions for funding and who is charged with keeping the property mowed. Funding would be an issue as well and agrees with Commissioner Buchert that the Form Based Code area would be a great start for this plan.

Commissioner Buchert states that ODOT has come a long way within the last few years and references the Perkins Road widening plan and feels this needs to be continued in terms of walkability and sidewalks. He goes on to say that other streets need to be looked at in terms of either widening the lanes or making the lanes smaller and making the streets more bicycle friendly.

Commissioner Ross states that, reading the article, some parts of it made her think of the overlay areas and the areas near the hospital, in regards to regulations for business size.

Paula advises that there are a lot of land development code topics as well as neighborhood topics within the article which has great graphics. The article talks about how many different areas of the community need to be involved and that the City would not think about implementing something that would not have some chance of success and that we just need a place to start.

Commissioner Lane asks what the plan is for Perkins Road from McElroy to Lakeview and if it is supposed to be 5 lanes and if any thought has been put into this plan.

Paula states that she is not aware of the specifics but that in previous discussions with ODOT and with previous City staff the neighborhoods were invited to speak with them regarding any issues they had encountered or any input they would have that would make their quality of life better from a transportation standpoint. Paula advises that she has not seen anything further come of that or any preliminary concept designs. This would be something good to follow up on.

Commissioner Ross states that she is thinking of all the places in which she walks and states that there's always somewhere in which the sidewalk is not there or not consistent and that we need to make sure we have sidewalks and that they are consistent or on the same side of the street.

Paula advises that this is a good point and that it can be somewhat of an obstacle in regards to who is responsible for it and developing the sidewalk. There are many opportunities.

Commissioner Buchert states that if we don't have the money it can't be done; the plans are great but getting the money to implement them and a time frame is important.

Paula suggests the Planning Commission look at their role within the City and what they think in terms of changes to the Land Development Codes, the Master Plans, what ideas can set the stage for grant funding, and private developments being encouraged to make things better for the citizens as well.

Commissioner Lane asks if there has ever been a study on pedestrian traffic.

Paula advises that a group called “Walk Score” assigns a score for a community’s walkability. Stillwater, OK has a score from this group but it is unknown how they come up with the score.

Commissioner Ross advises that it is determined by what amenities you can reach within your neighborhood.

Paula states that it is therefore not so much a true count or a true walkability study but that it has been discussed getting a group of volunteers together to see how walkable certain neighborhoods actually are and if there are any obstacles.

Commissioner Lane states that if we narrowed it down we may be able to get a start for what neighborhoods need the most attention.

Paula states that BPAC may have had a discussion in this regard.

Commissioner Buchert confirms this and states that, it hasn’t really been pursued, was done by OSU on a small area off of Hall of Fame and McElroy and from Duck over to Western and came up with recommendations for implementation.

Paula states that would be another group we could pull experience from.

Vice-Chair Rickelman asks if this is something the Planning Commission would like to have the City follow up on.

Commissioner Lane advises that he would like to see it move forward and see some recommendations on changes to the development code if needed.

Paula advises that staff is still meeting in regards to land development codes but does need to at least provide updates to the Planning Commission.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING SUMMARY FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

- a. Approval of the regular meeting summary of June 06, 2017.

Commissioner Buchert moved, Commissioner Lane seconded to approve the regular meeting summary of June 06, 2017.

Roll call:	Vacant	Rickelman	Lane	Buchert	Ross	Wilkins	Vacant
	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absent	-

Time: 1 minute

4. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS FROM STAFF FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

- a. Next Planning Commission meeting July 11, 2017.

5. ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT. This regular meeting of the Stillwater Planning Commission was called for adjournment by Commissioner Buchert, seconded by Commissioner Ross at approximately 5:54 PM on June 20, 2017 with all members present in agreement, the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held July 11, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Commission Hearing Room, Municipal Building, 723 S. Lewis Street.

Prepared by – Cindy Gibson, Administrative Coordinator

Approved by - _____
Stillwater Planning Commission

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