

WEST CENTRAL NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING MINUTES

July 16, 2009, Thursday

(Meeting held at Native Project at 6:30 p.m.)

I. Welcomes and Introductions

a. **Attendees:** George Craig, Kelly Kruz, Bradd Chinn, Jenny Mele, Patricia Matisse, Louise Stamper, Caleb Stamper, Ruth Borgmann, Randall Riggs, Don Huggins, Melissa Owen, Annette Owen, Ann Pizelo, Jen Hussey, Brenda Corbett, Toni Lodge, Andy Rathbun, Bobbie McInnis, Marcus DeWood, Luann DeWood, JoAnn Stewart

II. Approval of July Agenda and June Minutes

Motion to modify item five to three by George, seconded by Brenda. Motion passed.

III. Housekeeping

a. June meeting with City Planning Staff

According to city we are done with phase I. Once the SWOT is completed we will be done with phase II.

b. Walking tour scheduled for 7/25/09

We will be touring – North Monroe meet at the county health building at 10 AM at College and Jefferson. We will be walking down Boone past STA etc, court campus etc. Meet at Sharie's at 9 am if want to eat. The walk will last about an hour.

c. June Walking Tour

The tour was very successful, Kelly informed the group that minutes and pictures will be put on disc for the group.

d. S.W.O.T. Analysis - Rhosetta Rhodes

With Rhosetta unable to attend, the SWOT was tabled and will be added to the September Agenda.

IV. Downtown Zoning Update

Presentation by Louis Meuler (City Planning Staff)

Louis started by thanking the group for inviting him to speak. The Planning staff has been traveling to all of the neighborhoods, business groups, and property associations in follow-up to the recently updated downtown plan adopted in late 2008. Louis' personal Project is to update zoning and guidelines adopted in 2000. This is a follow-up process from the design review committee established in 1994. Similar to a planning commission but reviews larger development in the city, focusing on public projects, commercial development, downtown codes and guidelines task force – working with a group of citizens and public meetings. It is a continuation of unified development code SMC Title 17, consolidating downtown codes orphaned in Title 11 and elsewhere in the UDC. It is also a goal to standardize on UDC format and structure when possible as well as downtown code housekeeping. Furthermore it will ensure that development standards are consistent with the updated downtown plan. It will also continue to clarify standards to make them understandable to users and citizens, simplify standards to eliminate redundancy and unnecessary regulations that do not further city goals.

Height and Massing – perspectives in some areas to allow taller building, some parts will reduce allowed height. New subject matter for life design character areas, and elements of preservation.

Design Guidelines - Right of ways- pedestrian right of way and control, control new surface parking lots.

Alternatives – Access to sunlight in key areas – open and sunny edge around river, park and falls, character area and historic district, allowing for taller towers outside of CBD (central business district). Map of open around park land map. As high as Coeur d’Alene hotel then step up as goes back. Complete streets map, categorized into green streets to complete streets. Hierarchy for codes based on color of line how pedestrian friendly the street is. Street trees, bicycle parking

Character areas – different forms overarching downtown design guidelines that cover all of area zoned for downtown.

Areas – highlight desired elements, more towards please consider these elements, what qualities make the area unique, what do we want to encourage in the area, what new elements do we want to encourage. Draft characters area map. Such an example would be the Mallon Apartments which is a brick structure.

Riverside – context of existing buildings, historical scale, sense of enclosure, sun access, vies of surrounding environment, façade length to height. 70 height limit with any additional stories recessed, build code consider (wood frame, high rise const). Right now we can have 150 ft buildings.

Louis went on to include several maps and additional points of what the planning department is working on. For any additional information see Kelly as he has the complete presentation in paper form. Louis informed the group that the next Planning Commission Meeting Next is 8/12/09 @ 12 to 3 or 4. Workshops 2nd and 4th Thursday, Louis added that this plan should be adopted by city council by the end of 2009

Discussion:

George inquired as to why West Central was not asked to be a part of this planning force. Louis informed us of the organization behind this group. “Some individuals went to city meetings and presented at Riverpoint. GSI (Greater Spokane Inc) was a prime developer. Louis was not part of this. Downtown people began to tell planning what they wanted. West Central was not invited, but we found out about it at a later time. GSI sponsored the event, with a grand plan that was already drawn up and neighborhoods were not invited to this event.” Marcus DeWood added that he is glad that the city let us know about this.

VI. Good of order

- a. EL Stewart exhibit at The Ruby Slipper
- b. Yard Sale in the parking lot from 8 to 3 on Saturday and Sun @ Native Project – for a 9 yr old has cancer.

VII. Adjourn

George moved to adjourned the meeting and Rose seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM. Next Meeting 8/20/09 @ 6:30 PM