

**Planning Commission Meeting**  
**April 25, 2023**  
**12:00 p.m.**

The planning commission members met on the above date and time in the commission chambers of Herington City Hall. In attendance were Karen Soliz, Cynthia Naylor, Gwen Owens-Wilson, Richard Idelman, Janet Wade, Marcus Hawkes, Neighborhood Services Director James Masters, City Manager Thatcher Moddie and Rhonda Rice.

The meeting opened with the pledge of allegiance.

Chair Marcus Hawkes called the meeting to order.

Consider minutes of March 28, 2023-Regular Planning Commission meeting.

Karen Soliz made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Gwen Owens-Wilson. Motion Carried 6-0.

Public Forum: None

Additional agenda items:

Janet Wade made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of item 7A, enforcing zoning code regulations of outdoor storage screening for commercial and industrial zones, seconded by Cynthia Naylor. Motion 6-0.

A Discussion and update of the comprehensive plan was had. City Manager Thatcher Moddie gave thoughts from the City Commission and from his perspective on moving forward. The City Commission would like to see it and make possible comments. Janet Wade discussed the process of where the Planning and Zoning Commission presents to the City Commission, and they then approve it or make comments for what they would like to see. She is not satisfied with the current state of the product and reorganizing has been started. Mr. Moddie was optimistic, and it can be used. Rhonda Rice added that holes have been identified comparing to the 2001 plan and the possibilities of filling them. Ms. Wade noted the plan does not address the coming of the trail. Ms. Soliz thinks we can each take a section and then bring in a consultant for fine tuning. There was a discussion on the working group getting back together and a timeline for when a product can be presented. Ms. Naylor also suggested a consultant for some areas. Mr. Moddie was not opposed but unsure about the budget. The subgroup will meet April 30<sup>th</sup>.

A discussion of enforcing zoning code regulations of outdoor storage screening for commercial and industrial zones was had. Janet Wade noted there are codes that seem to not be enforced and properties are becoming trashy. It does not look good to visitors. Thatcher Moddie commented the city inspector has been working hard on a lot of properties to get them cleaned up. Cynthia Naylor asked if commercial properties are on his list. City inspector James Masters said the process can take some time. The approach is to get the property cleaned up instead of just throwing up a fence. In the long run, it is the better outcome.

Karen Soliz gave a report of the Dickinson County Planning Commission. She noted Veronica Murray from the Community Foundation of Dickinson County spoke about a leadership event held at the greyhound museum in Abilene. The Dickinson County administrator had sent a letter of support for the SPRINT grant application to Herington. The Little Lions Learning Center in Hope was having an open house. It was built with the assistance of the city of Hope and county ARPA funds. Two other centers are being built in the county with these funds. The tax foreclosure sale date has not been set.

Commissioner Comments:

Karen Soliz- no comment

Janet Wade- Information was shared about the Main Street program. Information was forwarded about a quarterly training next week where Ms. Wade and Ms. Rice will be attending. A writer of travel guides from Nebraska going by Wondermore will be in Herington next week to experience the town and take pictures. The Herington Revitalization Committee will have a spiff up the town working time to help clean up downtown. The need for street trees were promoted and a list of appropriate ones from Lindsborg was shared. The SPRINT grant announcement should be coming in May.

Cynthia Naylor- The question was asked if the City Manager Moddie will be working with KDWP on the trail. He confirmed he will be.

Gwen Owens-Wilson- Welcome to the new City Manager, you have your hands full and thank you to the subgroup for working on the comprehensive plan.

Richard Idelman- No Comment

Marcus Hawkes- Discussed that a new conditional use application has been received. The information will be distributed soon. It is important to keep discussions about items like this in this committee until it is appropriate to share.

Cynthia Naylor made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Janet Wade and the motion carried 6-0

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Chanda Wilson, Deputy City Clerk