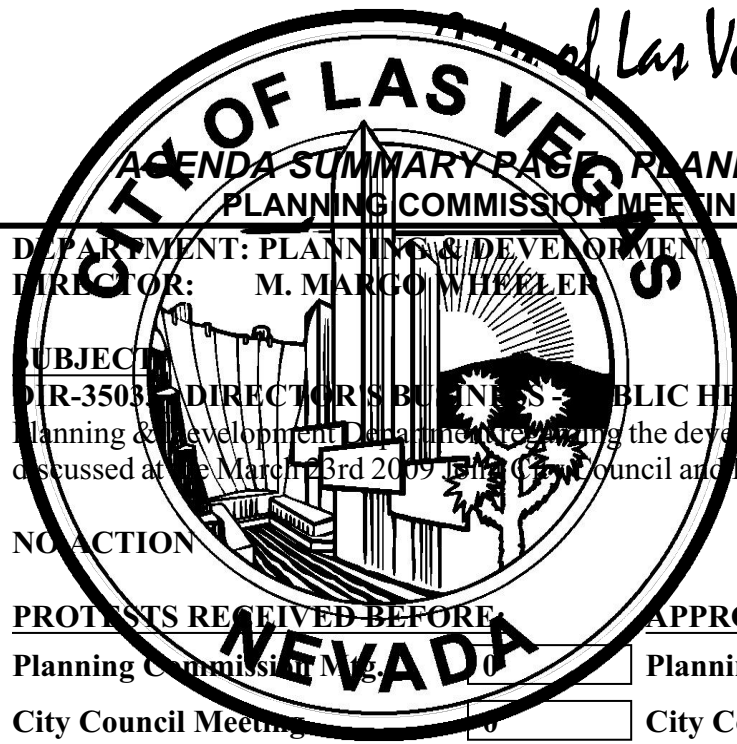




City of Las Vegas

Agenda Item No.: 30.

**AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING OF: JULY 23, 2009**

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR: M. MARGO WHEELER

☐ Consent ☒ Discussion

SUBJECT: DIR-3503 - DIRECTOR'S BUSINESS - PUBLIC HEARING - Progress report by the Planning & Development Department regarding the development of walkable community plans as discussed at the March 23rd 2009 City Council and Planning Commission workshop.

NO ACTION

PROTESTS RECEIVED BEFORE:

Planning Commission Mtg.

City Council Meeting

APPROVALS RECEIVED BEFORE:

Planning Commission Mtg.

City Council Meeting

RECOMMENDATION:

NO RECOMMENDATION

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

1. Conditions (Not Applicable) and Staff Report
2. Walkable Communities Study Area Map
3. Ward 1 Walkable Communities Map
4. Ward 2 Walkable Communities Map
5. Submitted after Meeting PowerPoint Presentation by Staff

Minutes:

Public Hearing held. No motion required.

CHAIR TROWBRIDGE declared the Public Hearing open.

FLINN FAGG, Planning and Development, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the progress on walkable community plans, which will improve access for residents, to reduce traffic by encouraging walking, enhance pedestrian safety and identify the needed amenities. The goal is to create neighborhoods that will be valuable in the future as they are currently. .

MR. FAGG outlined areas that have been identified for a current study as walkable communities, and referred to a map showing how these areas were identified, including future transit. Each year there two walkable community plans will be identified beginning in 2009 through 2011. The elements of a walkable community plan will address the location, existing conditions, needed improvements, an action plan and funding for the plan itself. MR. FAGG showed examples of how an existing neighborhood might with sidewalks, shade, amenities and with private development to follow. The first two walkable areas identified are the Meadows Lane and the Village Square plans.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING OF: JULY 23, 2009

The first public input session is tentatively scheduled for August to allow input from residents, business owners and neighborhood associations. At the workshop scheduled for 7/30/09, it will be the best opportunity for the Planning Commissioners to review this plan, provide input and take advantage of their expertise. Once the plans have been reviewed, they will be forwarded to the City Council for adoption. COMMISSIONER QUINN asked how the public will be notified of the public meetings. MR. EVANS replied that postcards will be sent to all property and business owners within the area identified, as well as neighborhood associations.

COMMISSIONER ELLSWORTH remarked that the concept of walkability is to be able to walk to stores and this concept will make it safer for pedestrians. However, there could be homeowners that might not want some of these establishments in their neighborhood. MARGO WHEELER, Director of Planning and Development, replied that there are all different types of neighborhoods. The plan is to create a variety of different kinds of neighborhoods, such as village centers throughout the City to meet the needs of different people. COMMISSIONER EVANS pointed out that people move to the rural area to get away from the urban feel. Downtown with all the high rises are great opportunities for being able to walk to work and to the grocery store but the streetscape is required. Often applicants do not go out and assess what the residents want to see in their neighborhood.

TODD FARLOW expressed concern with how to separate the vehicle traffic from pedestrian traffic on Eastern Avenue.

COMMISSIONER TRUEBLOOD acknowledged MR. PERRIGO and MR. FAGG's involvement in the trail system and open space projects. There is so much of the trail system that does not have trees planted, and he hopes that trees are not shifted. MR. FAGG remarked that staff is also looking at improving the connection to Pioneer and Bonanza Trails, as well as the Spring Preserves. The owner of the Meadows Mall has the understanding of redeveloping mall sites and making them a mixed-use walkable community.

TOM PERRIGO, Planning and Development, commented that the Bonanza Trail, connecting east and west from Summerlin down to the Las Vegas Wash, will provide access to the Springs Preserves. In terms of trees, a study was completed on trees in the public space in conjunction with the Las Vegas Water Authority to manage the forest intelligently and put forth plans to meet those canopy targets.

COMMISSIONER EVANS asked who would pay for the irrigation, as it relates to the streetscape and if this can be brought in as development occurs. MR. FAGG replied that in downtown, as property is developed, the property owner is required to install the streetscape. MS. WHEELER added that as part of the sustainability initiative is to look at the downtown trail system, use drought tolerant trees, provide a palette of the types of trees appropriate throughout the downtown area and make it part of the trail system and open space, as well as continue seeking funding that is available to assist with these programs.

CHAIR TROWBRIDGE declared the Public Hearing closed.