

AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE - PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING OF: FEBRUARY 25, 2010

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR: M. MARGO WHEELER

☐ Consent ☒ Discussion

SUBJECT: BEYANET - DIR-36987 - DIRECTORS BUSINESS - PUBLIC HEARING -
APPLICANT/OWNER: CITY OF LAS VEGAS - Progress report by the Planning &
Development Department regarding the City's Sustainability Initiative

NO ACTION REQUIRED

PROTESTS RECEIVED BEFORE:

Planning Commission Mtg. 0

City Council Meeting 0

APPROVALS RECEIVED BEFORE:

Planning Commission Mtg. 0

City Council Meeting 0

RECOMMENDATION:

None

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

Submitted after Meeting - PowerPoint Presentation by Staff

Minutes:

CHAIR TRUESDELL declared the Public Hearing open.

TOM PERRIGO, Deputy Director of Administrative Services, provided a PowerPoint Presentation on the update of the City's Sustainability Initiative. He indicated that during the Planning Commission and City Council workshop in September of 2007 discussion was held about Urban Forestry, and in 2008 the City Council adopted a Resolution supporting an Urban Forestry Initiative. He provided a few highlights of the Tree Inventory, and indicated that he will be providing a comprehensive report at a future date.

MR. PERRIGO indicated that Arbor Pro USA conducted an inventory for cities throughout the country, and based on extensive research, it was able to determine the benefits trees provide; carbon storage, air quality, storm water management and aesthetics.

MR. PERRIGO stated that staff received notice that the application for stimulus funds was approved in September. Staff is developing a baseline of the energy use in the buildings that will be retrofitted and those that will receive solar insulation in order to monitor and track reduction in energy use, resulting in savings.

MARGO WHEELER, Director of Planning and Development, asked for the locations of the solar covers. MR. PERRIGO replied that most are going in community centers and public facilities throughout the City.

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CHAIR TRUESDELL asked if inducted lighting is at par with LED lighting. MR. PERRIGO responded that LED is challenging. Even though it might generate energy savings, the light patterns do not satisfy the requirements. Staff will work with neighborhoods to demonstrate how they look.

He added that rebates will be provided for homeowners for energy retrofits. Green Chips is a program that establishes a revolving loan program to provide financing options to make the improvements, with the goal that the payment on the loan will be less than the savings on energy use.

MS. WHEELER asked MR. PERRIGO to speak on the monitoring of applications for sustainability components, as those are projects that come before the Planning Commission. MR. PERRIGO explained that the goal is to increase the number of projects that have a sustainability component, and staff uses LEED for neighborhood standards to determine whether projects meet some sort of LEED or Green standard. This will also help measure the impact of the incentives offered in the program. There are builders who want to take advantage of the incentives and are building 30 percent more efficiently. This will help staff achieve the performance target of increasing the percentage of projects with sustainability or a green component.

TODD FARLOW, Las Vegas resident, stated he is a member of the Arbor Association, and asked if trees that are in bad shape will be replaced. He commented that trees should be shaped as a canopy to provide shade. MR. PERRIGO responded that a Planning landscape architect is managing the program and is putting together the Urban Forestry Management Plan.

CHAIR TRUESDELL asked that during future updates information be provided on the different types of trees.

MR. PERRIGO informed COMMISSIONER EVANS that he would provide the Commissioners with a detailed inventory report.

COMMISSIONER TROWBRIDGE commended MR. PERRIGO for the excellent report. He wondered if standards have been created for a definition of an older home. MR. PERRIGO replied that these types of programs are based on meeting certain income qualifications. However, many of the grants, money and programs are coming out of the Department of Energy. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Housing Urban Development (HUD) are also focused on providing opportunities for middle and higher-income homeowners. He pointed out that research done as part of the University of Las Vegas Nevada (UNLV) thesis was detailed in looking at energy consumption in homes in the community by blocks, and it takes into account the square footage, the occupancy, age and quality of the home. There is a lot of information on the conservation measures in this economy climate that would have the greatest impact for the investment. However, no standards have been set.

CHAIR TRUESDELL declared the Public Hearing closed.