



Las Vegas

Agenda Item No.: 6.

AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE
SPECIAL JOINT CITY COUNCIL AND PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING OF:
SEPTEMBER 20, 2010

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

DIRECTOR: AL MARGO WHEELER

Consent Discussion

SUBJECT:

Presentation and update of Walkable Community Plans and the Meadows and Sahara West Walkable Community plan areas

Fiscal Impact

No Impact

Augmentation Required

Budget Funds Available

Amount:

Funding Source:

Dept./Division:

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

At the Special Joint City Council and Planning Commission Workshop of March 23, 2009, Planning & Development Department staff received direction to begin the development of Walkable Community Plans. Walkable Community Plans assist in implementing the city's master plan and strategic priorities by promoting sustainable, livable neighborhoods, encouraging alternative forms of transportation, and enhancing the quality of life of residents.

Since the 2009 workshop, staff has worked with residents in developing Walkable Community Plans for the Meadows and Sahara West plan areas. A presentation will be given outlining the proposed recommendations and status of the Meadows and Sahara West plans, as well as a timeline for the development of future Walkable Community Plans.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive the presentation and direct staff accordingly.

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

1. Walkable Community Plan Brochure
2. Informational flyer Meadows Walkable Community Plan
3. Informational flyer Sahara West Walkable Community Plan
4. Submitted at Meeting PowerPoint Presentations by Staff

Minutes:

FLINN FAGG, Planning Manager, reviewed the submitted PowerPoint presentation dealing with walkable community plans, qualifications and the benefits of having them. He pointed out elements of a walkable community, amenities that can include a grocery store, drugstore, restaurant, school and parks. This Uniform Development Code will encourage walkable neighborhoods through connectivity and street standards.



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He recalled initial efforts for public input that failed, so staff followed up with neighborhood meetings and other events. As a result, two areas were identified as walkable communities. He reviewed the Meadows Walkable Community Plan and the Sahara West Walkable Community Plan. Future walkable community plans will include: Jackson Avenue with public input beginning Fall 2010 and 28th Street with public input beginning Spring 2011.

Lastly, MR. GAG commented on efforts by the Nevada Department of Transportation and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for Community Challenge Planning Grants. The hope is to link transit, pedestrian and bike networks with land use in the downtown transit area. Walkable community plans will assist in implementing the Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan, accomplishing the goals of the strategic plan, implementing sustainability and creating great communities.

COUNCILMAN WOLFSON supports walkable communities but stressed the dire need for grant funding.

COUNCILWOMAN TARKANIAN was excited about the changes realizing the positive impact that will be made upon the community in general and having the city of Las Vegas be known as one of the greatest cities.

MARGO WHEELER, Director of Planning and Development, thanked the Council and Commission members for their presence at this meeting. She agreed that these concepts help keep the City proactive in its efforts; however, the City can only move forward pursuant to funds becoming available.

CHAIR TRUESDELL commended staff on a great job but wondered about the older neighborhoods where development is simply not occurring. He and MS. WHEELER recognized the fact that conversations can begin with neighborhoods and homeowners associations, as well as staff, to bring about projects that actually come to fruition. In addition, the forthcoming Citizens Academy of Planning will be another beneficial tool.

Due to time constraints, MAYOR GOODMAN directed Item 7, Citizens Academy of Planning, to be rescheduled. COUNCILMEN BARLOW and ROSS confirmed with CITY MANAGER ELIZABETH FRETWELL that the item will be placed on a future City Council agenda for discussion. MS. WHEELER added that the item will also be placed on a future Planning Commission agenda for discussion.