

**SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF MEDINA CITY COUNCIL, MEDINA
PLANNING COMMISSION AND MEDINA PARK COMMISSION
MINUTES OCTOBER 25, 2005, 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., Hamel Community Building**

Mayor Workman called the joint meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

Those present: Council Members: Bruce Workman, Carolyn Smith, Randy Brinkman, and Elizabeth Weir. Planning Commission Members: Dick Picard, Leonard Leuer, Marilyn Fortin, Mary Verbick, and Tom Supel. Park Commission Members: Gerald Dykhoff, Tom Gregor, and Randy Hughes.

Those absent: Councilor Joe Cavanaugh, Planning Commission member Tom Crosby, and Park Commission members Galen Bruer, Brad Kvanbek, and Robin Reid.

Also present were Chad Adams, City Administrator; Rose Lorsung, City Planner; Jim Dillman, Public Works Director; Sarah Schield, Planning Consultant; and Janet Olson, Administrative Assistant

Rose Lorsung provided an overview of the Open Space Planning topic and introduced speaker Julie Westerlund, Communications and Education Director for Minnehaha Creek Watershed District.

Westerlund presented information on the need for vision in comprehensive planning and introduced the concept of Natural Resource Based Land Use Planning that incorporates Open Space Planning and Preservation. Natural Resource Base Land Use Planning is a process that identifies natural resources at the beginning of the planning process. Westerlund acknowledged that Medina is fortunate because in 2003 a complete Natural Resource Inventory was completed. The presentation entailed the Natural Resource Based Land Use Process and how the process provides a foundation for rational decisions and community involvement.

Discussion occurred on the presentation. Discussion included where do we start first and how does the city incorporate such planning with the issue of the moratorium that is currently in place and how to develop a committee to look at the moratorium and open space planning. There was a consensus that the purpose of this meeting is not to set up committees. Staff will provide a timeline for the Comprehensive Plan review that is to begin early 2006 and be presented to the Met Council by September 2008. The City Council will form the committee that will look at the issues facing the moratorium.

Mayor Workman asked those Council Members, Commissioners, and the public for their ideas on what their thoughts on what is one of the important issues that are facing planning in the city of Medina. Topics that were discussed included:

- clearly define what is meant by ‘rural character’ and open space,
- seek more input and representation from ‘long term’ residents in development of land

- the need to protect natural resources and rewards to developers that come on board with our planning
- the need to focus on other issues of land use such as commercial and industrial
- the need for community involvement and input in the planning process
- to be careful what is being asked for and what the elected officials put forth with their actions
- during the planning process look at how water- runoff impacts other properties

City Administrator Chad Adams summarized a new process for vacancies on Commissions. He suggested looking into a committee that would screen the applicants for their qualifications. An article will be in the next newsletter that will outline the vacancies, the process for applying for the positions, and the time frame for the appointments. Discussion occurred on how to involve community members. The council will review this process at an upcoming meeting.

Adams discussed the 2010-2030 Comprehensive Plan Process. The Comprehensive Planning Process will begin in February or March 2006, with the goal to have a plan proposed to the Met Council by September 2008. Open Space Planning and response to the moratorium will begin sooner.

It was suggested that the Park Commission look at ideas for future parks and that the Planning Commission look at future areas of growth before the process begins.

Mayor Workman adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.