

PLANNING COMMISSION: 2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS & 2012 GOALS

REVIEW DRAFT FOR PLANNING COMMISSION CONSIDERATION: FEBRUARY 13, 2012

2011 Accomplishments

1. **Completed a review of the 91 objectives** assigned to the Planning Commission in the 2005 Comprehensive Plan and reduced those objectives down to 12 realistic and doable priorities. Over a series of Planning Commission and sub-committee meetings, commissioners and staff arrived at list of measurable objectives that can be accomplished in the next several years.
2. **Recommended several Municipal Code amendments to the City Council:**
 - New Appeals Chapter in Title 18: This chapter provides uniform provisions for land use appeals, including appeal criteria, notice provisions and procedural guidelines. The amendment eliminated the troublesome “merit hearing” process.
 - Off-tracking betting: New provisions were developed to allow, with limitations, off-track betting activities in various commercial zoning districts.
 - Temporary sign provisions: a complete rewrite of the standards for allowing temporary, on-site business signs was completed. The updated standards accommodate current business practices, providing greater clarity and flexibility while improving enforceability.
 - Wind Turbine provisions for residential properties: The City Council, after discussing the provisions in a public hearing, decided not to adopt the regulations.
3. **Supported Downtown Revitalization, approving the Rialto Bridge project.** The Planning Commission approved the Rialto Bridge site development plan, paving the way for development of an important downtown catalyst project.
4. **Supported the preservation of the Medina Family Cemetery** (burial grounds) with approval of the Mariana 25th Subdivision / Garden Gate preliminary development plan. Acreage for the Mariano Medina Family plot was preserved from development.

2012 Goals:

1. **Support Hwy. 402 Corridor planning effort.** Staff is anticipating direction to begin research and other preliminary efforts in the development of a corridor plan for East 14th Street, from I-25 to Hwy 287. It is expected that the Planning Commission will be involved in guiding the development of this project.
2. **Communication with the City Manager.** The Commission would like to gain a sense of the City Manager’s land use and planning priorities, including those priorities that extend into a multi-year timeframe. To this effect, the Commission would like the City Manager to brief the Commission on his priorities.

3. **Code Amendments.** The Commission expects to review the following amendments to the Municipal Code in 2012:
 - Site Development Performance Standards, Chapters 1, 3 & 4
 - Site Development Plan Process Amendments (code foundation for new procedures)
 - Affordable Housing provisions (new chapter in Title 18)
 - Temporary Use provisions
4. **Monitor City Review Process.** The Commission requests that staff provide an update of the development review process in March, including data indicating the number and type of projects approved and the review timeframes achieved by staff. Staff would provide a quarterly review of relevant data thereafter.
5. **Monitor / Support Downtown Revitalization.** The Commission requests a semi-annual report from staff indicating progress made on the downtown revitalization effort, including information on project approvals and new business start-ups.