

Sidney, Nebraska, June 15, 2020

A meeting of the Planning Commission of the City of Sidney, Nebraska, was convened in open and public session at 5:30 P.M. on June 15, 2020 in the City Council Chambers, located at 1115 13th Avenue. Present were: Chairman Smith and Commissioners: Benzel, Glenn, Loghry, and Long. Absent: England, Schmitt and Sweetser. Others present: Chief Building Official Kubo, Interim City Manager Scott and City Clerk Heilbrun. Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in The Sidney Sun Telegraph, the designated method for giving notice, a copy of the proof of publication being attached to these minutes. Advance notice of the meeting was also given to the Chairman and all members of the Commission, and a copy of their acknowledgment of receipt of notice is attached to these minutes. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to the Planning Commission of this meeting. All proceedings shown hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Chairman Smith announced to all in attendance, that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available for review at the rear of the room.

Glenn moved, Loghry seconded "That the minutes of the May 18, 2020 meeting be approved." Roll call vote: Yeas: Benzel, Glenn, Loghry and Smith. Abstain: Long. Absent: England, Schmitt and Sweetser.

Chairman Smith asked for nominations for Chairman of the Planning Commission for 2020-2021. Glenn moved, Long seconded "That Tim Smith be nominated as Chairman of the Planning Commission for 2020-2021." There being no other nominations, a roll call vote was taken. Yeas: Benzel, Glenn, Loghry and Long. Abstain: Smith. Absent: England, Schmitt and Sweetser.

Chairman Smith asked for nominations for Vice-Chairman of the Planning Commission for 2020-2021. Glenn moved, Benzel seconded "That Ben Schmitt be nominated as Vice-Chairman of the Planning Commission for 2020-2021." There being no other nominations, a roll call vote was taken. Yeas: All commissioners present. Absent: England, Schmitt and Sweetser.

It was noted that the Planning Commission is still missing one member and everyone was urged to contact possible candidates to fill the position.

Interim City Manager David Scott presented information on the Dorwart family land acquisition agreement which had been presented to the City Council on June 9, 2020. He explained that the City Council would like the Planning Commission's input on the acquisition prior to signing any contract for the property.

Scott reported that the Dorwart family trust was interested in "downsizing" and no longer wanted to maintain and support the area. They felt that this area would be a good addition to the City Parks system. He noted that the corner of this property abutting Pole Creek/Toledo Street would be most useful to the City as it gives easements to alley utilities and garbage cans.

City Parks Superintendent Tom VonSeggern suggested that the City have their insurance company inspect the property for tree hazards, holes, etc. that could be costly to the City. He also noted that acquiring this property would add acres to the area maintained by the Parks staff without hiring any new staff.

Interim City Manager Scott stated that he had walked the area and did not see any insurmountable hazards that would not be covered under our liability insurance. He noted that if a walking trail was extended through the area a culvert would be needed to handle water runoff. However, due to budget reasons, this was not an immediate consideration for the area.

Commissioner Loghry suggested that the City check with Keep Sidney Beautiful for volunteers to clean up the area, and suggested a dog park for the area, similar to those in the Denver area. He also noted that there used to be a bike trail through the area when he was young.

Commissioner Glenn noted that his daughter was on the Keep Sidney Beautiful committee which was trying to find a place for a dog park, which might be suitable for a portion of this area.

Interim City Manager Scott noted that all of these suggestions mirrored those of the City Council at their June 9th meeting and thanked the Commission for their input.

The general consensus of the Planning Commission was to move forward with the purchase of the property as it fits with the City's overall plan for development.

Chief Building Official Kubo informed the Planning Commission that the City was in the process of receiving applications for diagonal parking in designated areas. With the help of the Street crew they are measuring areas where diagonal parking is being requested and will present requests and recommendations to the Planning Commission at the July 20th meeting. He noted that there are approximately 11 applications which included 9 churches and 2 private requests.

The meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

CITY CLERK

