Planning Commission Study Session Summary June 23, 2014

This is a summary of ideas and comments generated by the Planning Commission at the June 23, 2014 study session meeting. At this meeting, staff discussed some of the potential ideas and recommendations pertaining to the Increasing Public Awareness study issue.

Commissioner Klein likes the public notice web page idea. He also would like to see the interactive map idea (showing publically noticed sites (and possibly all projects)) implemented. Commissioner Klein also suggested that the City put QR codes on the notice boards on project sites so that people could scan those codes and get to the public hearing notice on their devices. Commissioner Klein also suggested that there should be a way for community members to "opt in" to an e-mail list and receive e-mailed public notices.

Commissioner Rheaume also likes the interactive map idea that staff discussed. He also would like to see a way for community members to "opt in" to an e-mail list and receive e-mailed public notices.

Commissioner Simons thinks the City should use the electronic utility bill as a way to publicize community events. He also thinks there should be an interactive map and thinks that there should be a feature in the map that would inform community members of projects within a certain radius of their house. He thinks the community member would sign up for this feature and choose the radius.

Commissioner Harrison likes the idea of having a staff member at a community meeting sponsored by the developer or project applicant.

Commissioner Melton would like a clear understanding of what we are trying to achieve with these recommendations (modernization of practices, reaching the most people, etc.). He also would like staff to discuss the newspaper options in the report and suggests that staff use the City Managers blog to keep the community informed of upcoming meetings and large projects.

Commissioner Olevson would like staff to provide a clear definition of major projects vs. minor projects and provide criteria on taller buildings. He would also like the expanded noticing requirements to take into consideration the magnitude of a project (low sprawling campus vs. one tall building). Commissioner Olevson also suggested that the developers should provide adequate perspective drawings and several rendering views at Community Meetings so the community can get a feel for the project.