

**MINUTES**  
**AUSTIN CITY PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2016**  
**5:30 P.M.**  
**AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Laura Helle, Steve Kime, Jay Lutz, Troy Nelson, Greg Siems, Lynn Spainhower, and Aaron Stewart

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Rick Bremner and Jim Mino

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Holly Wallace

Commissioner Kime called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Commissioner Lutz made a motion to approve the September 13, 2016 Planning Commission Meeting minutes as written. Commissioner Helle seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

**OPEN PUBLIC HEARING:** To consider a request from Austin Utilities for the relocation of an existing natural gas district regulator.

Austin Utilities has a gas regulator located across the street from the north side of Decker Park. They would like to relocate the regulator to the northwest corner of Decker Park in a small building. The small buildings are to protect the infrastructure from the elements and tampering. There is a similar design located at the Mower County Fairgrounds. Austin Park and Recreation Board has approved the relocation. Austin Utilities has access to install under streets as long as the surface is returned to its existing state. A notice was published with no comments received. Ms. Wallace covered the staff recommendations and indicated at a later date an easement will be requested and installation would begin in spring 2017.

Commissioner Lutz made a motion to approve the recommendation to council with the project plan as proposed. Commissioner Helle seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Property to be considered for sale owned by the City of Austin for commercial development use.

Ms. Wallace indicated the MN Statute 462.356, Subd. 2 describes when a city owes property and is planning a possible acquisition, disposal, or capital improvement, the planning commission reviews the proposed change to assure it is compliant with the Comprehensive Plan. The area is all one parcel although zoned two districts; B-2 and A-1. NW Park is zoned A-1 and B-2; the property to be considered is the north 3.9 acres. This is a unique matter as the city is in the process of updating the 16 year old Comprehensive Plan.

Commissioner Helle specified to let the record state that in the opinion of the zoning commission, this parcel being sold for commercial development is consistent with the pending 2016 Comprehensive Plan and the commissioners are operating under the assumption that it will have to be plotted and further review will come before the zoning commission in the future, although the commission is only determining compliance with the comprehensive plan at this time.

On Thursday, October 20 a draft of the Comprehensive Plan will be reviewed. This will be held at the JC Hormel Nature Center Ruby Rupner from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

There will be at least one planning commission member that will not be returning next year. If anyone is interested in being on the planning commission, please have them fill out an application with the city for review of additional members.

## **ADJOURN**

Commissioner Lutz made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm.