

PC Minutes 12/16/09

ITEM NO. 3 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 14 (MJL)

CPA-2-1-09: Receive the Oread Neighborhood Plan and schedule for action in January.

STAFF PRESENTATION

Commissioner Singleton abstained from this item.

Ms. Michelle Leininger presented the item. Action will be taken in January.

Mr. McCullough advised the Planning Commission that it was appropriate to take public comment and that public comment is open until the January Planning Commission meeting.

Ms. Leininger said the draft version will not make any changes during this month.

Commissioner Finkeldei said the overlay districts are in the details. Historic Resources Commission came up with the two new overlay districts. Inquired about what they envision those to be and how they are different from other overlay districts.

Ms. Leininger said the Development Code allows for a handful of overlay districts. The Urban Conservation Overlay district and the Historic Overlay district are two of those. Ms. Zollner and I worked together to tweak the preservation section.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Dennis Brown, President of the Lawrence Preservation Alliance, read LPA comments. He expressed the need for an outside consultant to lead Urban Conservation Overlay efforts.

Mr. Kyle Thompson, president of Oread Neighborhood Association, felt the five overlay districts were a good idea. He went over the letter communication that was included in the packet.

Commissioner Rasmussen asked if Mr. Thompson had a suggestion on what could be done to encourage owner occupants.

Mr. Thompson said different incentives but that he hasn't come up with anything specific.

Ms. Marci Francisco, 1101 Ohio, said she appreciated the new map showing the density. She said that five overlay districts is a good idea. She would like to see the EHS Bailey house that was added to the register on the map if possible.

Ms. Elle LeCompte discussed blight in the Oread neighborhood. She felt that more code enforcement was needed.

Mr. Rob Farha asked to see the overlay map on the overhead. Ms. Leininger displayed it on the overhead.

Mr. James Hicks expressed concern about blight as well. He said a program should be come up to slowly increase property taxes and tax incentives.

Mr. David Holroyd, 1224 Louisiana, brought up the issue of neighborhood revitalization and said the city is dragging their feet on doing that. He said blight is terrible. He felt like the city should set an example.

NO ACTION TAKEN