

**City of Falcon Heights
Planning Commission Minutes
July 24, 2012**

PRESENT: Commissioners Black, Brown, Fite, Gustafson, Wartick, Council Member Harris, Staff Liaison Jones.

ABSENT: With notice, Commissioners Minns and Noble

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Chair, Commissioner Black, who noted that a quorum was present. The minutes for June 26, 2012, were approved.

Stormwater and erosion control plan for rebuilding TIES west parking lot

Staff Liaison Jones introduced the stormwater management plan for the renovation of the west parking lot at TIES. The parking lot now serves as parking for the conference center and overflow general parking as well as parking during State Fair. The old firehouse/village hall has been demolished and the parking lot is to undergo a complete reconstruction. Chapter 107 of the city code requires Planning Commission and City Council approval of a stormwater plan for a project of this magnitude.

The proposed plan adds significant pervious landscaped surface to hold stormwater runoff, and the plan does meet all city zoning and stormwater requirements, as well as ADA requirements. The plan was approved by the watershed district and the state pollution control agency. Plans were reviewed extensively by the city engineer and public works director, who determined that all requirements were met. The parking lot is expected to be ready by State Fair time.

Gustafson moved, Fite seconded, to recommend approval of the stormwater and erosion control plans. Approval was unanimous. Due to the tight timetable of this project, the matter will go to the Council tomorrow night.

Information and Announcements

Councilmember Harris reminded the audience of the ice cream social coming up Thursday, July 26. Night to Unite is coming up August 7. The Citywide Garage Sale is September 15; sign-ups will commence in mid-August. The date for the neighborhood clean-up has not been confirmed yet. Jones announced that there will probably be household hazardous waste collection available on the fairground in September, details to be announced.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m. to workshop on a possible special event ordinance and a proposed prairie grass ordinance.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Jones, Staff Liaison

Planning Commission Workshop: Special Events

The purpose of the workshop was to decide how to proceed on this matter. Commissioners were in agreement that they need input from (a) the businesses who want to have special events and (b) from the residents who will be affected by future events.

After considerable discussion, Commissioners decided they would like to invite businesses to come describe the kinds of events they want to host. They requested staff to send out an invitation to all the city businesses, not just the ones who have already come forward, to an informal forum at a future workshop. Business owners will be asked to RSVP so use of time can be planned. The date was set for September as the staff liaison will be out of town on the date of the August meeting.

After the Commission finds out what kinds of events they would be looking at, they will be planning some kind of information gathering from residents. There was no specific consensus on the plan and timing for this phase. Whether that would be a written survey, a meeting, a web poll or some combination of methods will be determined after the businesses have been heard from. The formal public hearing might be sufficient, depending on the complexity of the ordinance needed. The goal will be to move to an ordinance draft for public hearing early in the new year.

Due to the late hour, the prairie garden topic was postponed again, with apologies.