



Planning Commission Agenda Item

Meeting Date: 3/12/2024
From: Josh White, Principal Planner
Item: Comprehensive Plan Annual Review

Purpose: Comprehensive Plan Annual Review

Background:

It has been a year since the 2022 Comprehensive Plan was adopted. By statute the Planning Commission is supposed to conduct an annual review of the Plan to determine if any changes should be made and discuss goals. As part of the development of the Plan, the Planning Commission determined that it was important to have measurable goals. I just want to take a few minutes to discuss the status of some goals and ask if there are any that you would like to focus on. I do not recommend any changes to the Plan at this time.

Housing-Pretty much all of the goals and actions in this section are on going. One specific item of note is that we are currently working on developing a housing plan for the 101 acre tract. The process will involve several public meetings and the Planning Commission will have the final approval before it is sent to the City Commission for adoption.

Economic Development-The actions are ongoing. We are seeing quite a bit of development recently. We also seen several commercial remodels. Staff is working on how to develop a database of vacant buildings

Parks and Rec-Work is continuing on a RecPlex in the Paris Park area. Currently those plans are stalled. There has also been some discussion on the former hospital lot north of Wilson Park with some discussion of a special taxing district for some housing on the north end to help finance improvements to the park. That is still in its early stages. There has not been much movement on the preservation of historic resources. A grant was awarded to improve Lovie Watson Park. Open space will be discussed as part of the 101 acre master plan.

Infrastructure/Transportation-A new stormwater fee structure was implemented in January. The plan is to use the additional resources to ensure the drainage systems and levees are improved. Additional staff may be hired to ensure we are compliant with stormwater regulations. Ongoing studies/plans are in the works for water and sewer repairs/replacements. The City Commission is discussing a sales tax initiative for street/sidewalk repairs. The ongoing 101 acre Master Plan will discuss sidewalks and streets in the area.

Community Health-A public health grant was acquired for Lovie Watson Park. As a part of the acceptance, the park was made tobacco free. The Community Health Center in Cowley County is moving forward with plans to open a center in the former Lincoln School. As noted before, work on a RecPlex is underway at Paris Park. It is in the very early stages.

Land Use-Work is ongoing. The 101 acre master plan is underway. The regulations were updated in 2023 and the changes seem to be working well. No further changes are recommended at this time.

Action:

Hold discussion.