

**City of Westwood, Kansas  
Planning Commission Meeting  
4700 Rainbow Boulevard  
January 8, 2024 – 7:00 PM**

Commissioners Present: Clay Fulghum  
Ann Holliday  
Samantha Kaiser (via Zoom)  
David Kelman  
Mark Neibling  
Sarah Page, Chair  
Matt Prout  
M. Scott Weaver

Commissioners Absent: Kevin Breer, Vice Chair

Staff Present: Leslie Herring, City Administrator  
John Sullivan, Public Works Director

**Call to Order**

Chair Page called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM on January 8, 2024.

**Approval of Agenda and Meeting Minutes**

Chair Page called for modifications or discussion of the November 6, 2023 meeting minutes. Commissioner Niebling moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Weaver seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Page called for modifications or discussion of the January 8, 2024 agenda. Commissioner Kelman moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Prout seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Public Hearings**

None.

**Presentations**

The Planning Commission received a presentation from Evergy representatives on intermittent electrical power outages, which have been occurring with greater frequency. The following Evergy representatives addressed the Planning Commission during the presentation: Scott Jones, Senior Community Business Manager; Chuck Tuttle, Senior Manager of the Metro Service Center; Don Miles, Construction Coordinator; and Doug Lehmann, Vegetation Manager. A copy of the presentation is included as an attachment to these meeting minutes.

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business**

*Discuss 2024 Issues of General Interest and Training Needs and Requests*

City Administrator Herring presented the staff report included in the meeting packet. The following topics were discussed:

Topics of interest for independent study and presentations by and for the Planning Commissioners:

- Pedestrian-friendliness, traffic calming, lowering speed limits
- Aging infrastructure
- Street tree requirement for new construction projects
- Electric continuity options; back-up generators; district generation
- Lot coverage definition, requirements, stormwater runoff mitigation

Guest speakers of interest to invite to address the Planning Commission:

- Bridging the Gap – Contain the Rain Program
- WaterOne – Water supply sustainability, conservation, and report on the state of water infrastructure for clean and continuous distribution in the future
- The University of Kansas – Plans for its medical and university campus expansion along Rainbow Blvd., including plans for the Westwood Campus on Shawnee Mission Pkwy.
- Johnson County Emergency Operations Center – Emergency Preparedness Plan, and plan for longer-term power outages that may occur
- Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) – Regional housing initiatives
- Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) – Regional environmental sustainability initiatives
- Plaza District Area Council – Process and plans for evaluating the future of the Country Club Plaza
- Civic Saint – Innovative building material being piloted in Kansas City to build smaller, affordable houses, possibly ADUs in Westwood (diverse housing types)

The Planning Commission agreed to formalize independent study topics at the February 2024 meeting and assign responsibility and dates for each topic. Additional topics may be added to the list at the February meeting.

### **Staff Reports**

#### *City Administrator Report – Leslie Herring*

Herring shared the status of the Rainbow Blvd. PSP study to evaluate possible changes to improve multi-modal transportation options. An open house to gather additional public input will be held on Saturday, January 27, from 2 – 4 PM at Westwood City Hall.

Chair Page also asked for an update on the status of the mixed-use development proposed by Karbank at 50<sup>th</sup> & Rainbow Blvd. Herring shared that a petition has been received to call a referendum on the sale of the City-owned property to Karbank and that the City is moving through steps to determine the validity of that petition.

#### *Public Works Director Report – John Sullivan*

No Public Works report was shared.

**Adjournment**

Motion by Commissioner Weaver to adjourn the meeting. Second by Commissioner Kelman. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.

**Upcoming Items**

No up

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sarah Page, Chair

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Leslie Herring, Secretary

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