

CITY COUNCIL & PLANNING COMMISSION DISCUSSION ITEM

Meeting Date: February 24, 2025

Staff Contact: Leslie Herring, City Administrator

Agenda Item: Open discussion of topics of shared interest

Background/Description of Item

In fall 2021, both the Planning Commission and Governing Body (Mayor and City Council) held a separate strategic planning retreat and generated several actions to take to maintain a high level of functioning and service to the community. The action items from the Planning Commission retreat are excerpted from the Retreat Summary and are provided below for convenient reference.



CONSENSUS OUTCOMES

In addition to discussing the purpose and roles, significant discussion took place around information flows, board norms, orientation of new members and training of commissioners. These discussions yielded the following work items:

ACTIONS IDENTIFIED	WHO	WHEN
1. Provide annual training for roles and legal issues for PC	David Waters	TBD
2. Joint City Council / Planning Commission work session	David Waters	Jan. 2022
3. PC to hold work sessions re: "issues of general interest" in order to ensure that all members have the same information	Sarah Page	Feb. 2022 at "Agenda setting" session
4. Develop board norms	Kevin Breer	Feb. 2022
5. Develop Planning Commission orientation	Sarah Page	Dec. 2021
6. Training needs and requests (each commissioner to bring suggestions for training)	Sarah Page	Feb. 2022 at "Agenda setting" session

Staff Comments/Recommendations

Comments

In alignment with consensus outcome Action Item No. 2 of the facilitated process, the Planning Commission and Governing Body are meeting jointly to provide an opportunity for both bodies to discuss areas and topics of common interest and overlap in an effort to plan strategically for their use of time and resources for the year.

The following links are resources are provided in an effort to aid the discussion topics that might be covered:

- February 13, 2025 City Council discussion of 2025 strategic work plan ([staff report available here](#))
- January 6, 2025 Planning Commission discussion of 2025 work plan ([staff report available here](#))
- 2024 Governing Body Strategic Planning topics ([details available here](#))
 - Capital Improvement Plan ([background available here](#))
 - Kansas City Regional Climate Action Plan ([Climate Action KC plan available here](#))

- Enhancing partnerships with Westwood businesses
- Exploring programs or assistance the City should consider offering to residents and businesses that align with priorities of the community as communicated in the 2024 community-wide survey ([background available here](#))
- Communities for All Ages topics ([details available here](#))
- Complete Streets topics ([details available here](#))
 - 2025 Mission Rd. project ([background available here](#))
 - 2026 47th Place design ([background available here](#))
 - Review of traffic calming planning on residential streets (Planning Commissioner-led educational presentation slides available here: [November 4, 2024 meeting](#); [November 7, 2022 meeting](#))
 - Rainbow Blvd. study ([background available here](#))
- Building and Zoning topics
 - Diverse housing options (Planning Commissioner-led educational presentation slides available here: [October 3, 2022 meeting](#))
 - Environmental Stewardship (Planning Commissioner-led educational presentation slides available here: [October 3, 2022 meeting](#), materials include slide deck as attachment to the minutes)
 - Zoning Ordinance review and possible text amendments
 - Tree canopy health ([June 3, 2024 presentation slides from Heartland Tree Alliance available here](#))
- The 47 Committee revival ([background available here](#))
- Any other topics that might be brought up for discussion by Council or Planning Commissioners are also welcome

Staff Recommendation

No formal action is required, staff anticipates a discussion amongst the City Council and Planning Commission with direction to be provided as appropriate.