

**BIG LAKE CITY COUNCIL,  
PLANNING COMMISSION, EDA, and PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**COMMITTEE WORKSHOP MINUTES  
DECEMBER 1, 2009**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Lori Kampa called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Council Members present: Mayor Lori Kampa, Council Members Dick Backlund, Raeanne Danielowski, Chuck Heitz, and Duane Langsdorf.

Planning Commission Members present: Chair Kirby Becker, Kettie Green (arrived at 5:47 p.m.), Doug Hayes, Scott Marotz, and Patricia May.

EDA Members present: President Doug Hayes.

Parks Advisory Committee Members present: Chair Eugene Earney, Katrine Nau, and Renee Rossman.

Also present: City Administrator Scott Johnson, Finance Director Corey Boyer, Community Economic Development Director Jim Thares, Public Works Director Mike Goebel, City Clerk Gina Wolbeck, Senior Planner Katie Larsen, and City Engineer Brad DeWolf.

**3. DISCUSSION**

Mayor Kampa thanked all members for their service. Mayor Kampa invited the Committee Members to give updates on accomplishments and needs of the various committees.

Parks Board Chair Eugene Earney discussed accomplishments of the Parks Advisory Board and also addressed future Park planning in the City. Board Members also reviewed the Oak Savannah Restoration Project, the improvements to McDowall Park, and the installation of volleyball courts at the Wrights Crossing Park. Discussion was also held on the application of Legacy Grant funds which would require designation of a minimum of a hundred acre parcel for a regional park system.

Planning Commission Chair Kirby Becker reviewed projects and developments brought to the Planning Commission in 2009. The Planning Commission held 16 public hearings in 2009. Commissioners also discussed the Walking Audit completed in 2009, the TOD Master Plan, and the possible involvement of the Lake Association in discussions of impervious surface regulations.

EDA President Doug Hayes reviewed projects the EDA accomplished in 2009 and identified proposed upcoming projects. Hayes also discussed the sale of the east end of Lake Plaza Mall, BLEDA assistance with funding of the relocation of the Big Lake Library, creation of the Big Lake Senior Activity Center, remodeling of the food shelf, establishing a Shovel Ready program, the TOD sidewalk expansion, and Lake Shopping Center signage improvements. BLEDA has also participated in TIF activity for the former Big Lake American Legion site improvements.

Scott Johnson reviewed the status of the Goals and Objectives established by the City Council for 2009. Council Members reviewed the budget issues the City faced in preparing for the 2010 budget and the need for a 2.5% tax rate increase due to the LGA unallotment enacted by Governor Pawlenty.

Discussion was also held on the possible establishment of a Big Lake Visitor's Bureau and potential marketing strategies that would include commuter friendly businesses. Marketing strategies discussed included signage posted at the Big Lake Station, the creation of a tourism map, completion of trail connections, and the addition of Big Lake information to Metro Transit's website. Members also discussed the need to complete the sidewalk areas between the Big Lake Station and Eagle Lake Road. The members directed staff to invite all interested groups together for a joint meeting at the January TOD Meeting. Members also directed staff to set up a meeting with the TOD property owner and Doug Hayes to discuss future plans for the site. Formation of a Welcoming Group was also discussed to meet train passengers entering the Big Lake Station.

Council thanked all the Committee Members and staff for attending.

#### **4. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Gina Wolbeck  
City Clerk

Date Approved By Council 12/09/09