

# CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE

## PLANNING BOARD

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### MINUTES

Date: **Monday, December 12, 2011**

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: RM 306, third floor, City Hall

Present: Chairman Michael Robinson, Anthony Almeida, Alternate Christopher Grant; Staff: Planning Director Jeanne Boyle, Chief Planner Diane Feather, and Planner Wayne Barnes.

The meeting opened with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance by all in attendance.

#### **1. SEATING OF ALTERNATE MEMBER**

Alternate member Mr. Christopher Grant was seated as a voting member.

#### **2. APPROVAL OF PLANNING BOARD MINUTES**

A. Minutes of October 22, 2011 - On a motion made by Mr. Almeida, seconded by Mr. Grant, the Board voted 3 – 0 to approve the minutes as submitted to the Board.

B. There was no meeting on November 14, 2011 (It was cancelled.).

#### **3. APPROVAL OF PLANNING BOARD CORRESPONDENCE**

A. Memo dated 10/12/11 to the City Council Re: Submission of Projects to the State of Rhode Island Transportation Improvement Program for 2013-2016 and Project Priority List (enclosed). On a motion made by Mr. Almeida, seconded by Mr. Grant, the Board voted 3 – 0 to approve the correspondence.

#### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Land Donation Proposal – PCD Realty LLC, O Almeida Avenue at J. Medeiros Way, Assessors Map 506, Block 3, Parcel 11.2 (enclosures).**

Ms. Boyle asked Mr. Barnes to present this item.

**B. Status of Taunton Avenue Auto Row Grant – (12/6/11 memo w/ attachments enclosed).**

Ms. Boyle asked Ms. Feather to present this item.

Ms. Feather noted that no action was being requested of the Board this evening, but the Planning Department wished to keep the Board updated regarding the status of the Plan, particularly since the Board had not met in November. She noted that there was a memorandum dated December 6, 2011 in their packet regarding the status of the "Auto Row" Planning Challenge Grant. She noted that at the Board's meeting of October 11, 2011, the Board supported the idea of "road-dieting" an approximate .6 mile portion of Taunton Avenue east of the Pawtucket Avenue (Route 114) intersection east to the Massachusetts border as being consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan, and noted that this was included in the City's 2013-216 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) application. She noted that the City Council endorsed the entire TIP Project Priority List at their meeting of October 18, 2011, which was then submitted to the State.

In preparation of the TIP application, the Planning Department worked with the Police Department (Captain Kidman) to get crash data for Taunton Avenue. As noted in the Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> memorandum, in an approximate two-year period in just the eastern section of the corridor from just east of the Pawtucket Avenue intersection to approximately Commercial Way, there were 29 motor vehicle accidents.

She noted that the introduction of a two way left turn lane has been a significant outcome of the Auto Row Study and use of it in this area would provide a storage area outside the travel lane for motorists wishing to turn left, whose safety would be increased, and the configuration would improve efficiency of traffic operations for motorists and for freight transport by removing turning traffic from travel lanes, thereby supporting the businesses located in this corridor and their patrons visiting this corridor, and finally, pedestrians would also likely feel and be safer as a result of the lane reconfiguration.

Ms. Feather and our transportation consultant on this study, Maureen Chlebek, P.E., of McMahon Associates, appeared before the STC for a second time on Nov. 9, 2011 to give further details on the Auto Row study. The STC voted unanimously to study the road-dieting proposal and a study is currently underway by the STC's traffic engineering consultant. This study could be completed by as early as January 2012. Ms. Feather noted that staff would be back before the Board in January 21012 with the Auto Row Report and draft regulations.

**C. Emergency Operations Plan (12/15/11 memo with attachments enclosed).**

Ms. Boyle asked Mr. Barnes to present this item.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Almeida, seconded by Mr. Grant, the Board voted 3 – 0 to enter the memorandum into the record with the correction of the last name of the Police Chief to Tavares.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Almeida, seconded by Mr. Grant, the Planning Board voted 3 – 0 for a finding that the proposed Emergency Operations Plan was consistent with the City's Adopted Comprehensive Plan 2010-2015.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Almeida, seconded by Mr. Grant, the Board voted 3 – 0 to recommend that the City Council adopt the 2011 Emergency Operations Plan.

**5. CONTINUED BUSINESS**

There was no continued business.

**6. STAFF REPORT**

A. Forbes Street Landfill Project

B. Use of Social Media in Planning

Ms. Feather noted that staff was reviewing opportunities to use social media for planning purposes and to conduct public outreach. Ms. Boyle noted that North Kingstown had used a social media format for a recent planning project.

C. EMA Activities Update (enclosure)

D. Safe Routes to School Program 2010 Grants (enclosure)

E. Planning Challenge Grant Application (enclosure)

**7. COMMUNICATIONS**

A. A copy of a letter dated 10/11/11 to Jeanne Boyle from Attorney Martin P. Sleprow Re: Amended Master Plan /AMJAM, LLC with attached letter dated 10/11/11 to Mayor Rogers (copy enclosed).

**8. ANNOUNCEMENT**

Next Meeting – **January 9, 2012, 7:00 p.m.**, Room 306

**9. ADJOURNMENT - 8: 40 PM**