

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION MEETING OF
THE SPRINGFIELD PLANNING COMMISSION HELD
Tuesday, July 7, 2009

The City of Springfield Planning Commission met in Work Session in the Jesse Maine Meeting Room, 225 Fifth Street, Springfield, Oregon on **Tuesday, July 7, 2009 at 6:15 p.m.**, with Frank Cross as Springfield Planning Commission Chair.

ATTENDANCE

Present were Chair Frank Cross, Vice Chair Johnny Kirschenmann and Planning Commissioners Lee Beyer, Sheri Moore, and Steve Moe. Also present were Development Service Director Bill Grile, Public Works Director Susie Smith, Planning Manager Greg Mott, Planning Supervisor Linda Pauly, Administrative Specialist Brenda Jones, City Attorney Joe Leahy, and Assistant City Attorney Mary Bridgette Smith.

ABSENT

- Eric Smith (Excused)
- Sean VanGordon (Excused)

APPLICATIONS

• **Pervious Paving / Stormwater Program**

Steve Hopkins Planner II introduced Matt Stouder, Public Works (PW) Engineering Supervisor, who provided background on the issue of pervious paving within the context of the City's Stormwater Management Plan. He said there were several overarching policies at the local and federal levels, including the Clean Water Act, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, Metro Plan and Public Facilities and Services Plan (PFSP). He said the PFSP included mechanisms to improve surface quality through implementation of local development regulations, as expressed in the Springfield Development Code. He said those regulations were implemented through engineering design standards and procedures for developers. Mr. Stouder introduced Chuck Gottfried, Assistant Environmental Services Manager.

Mr. Gottfried used a PowerPoint presentation to highlight the range of efforts that had been undertaken across the City's various departments and illustrate how the City Council's leadership and guidance had translated into results on the ground.

Commissioner Beyer asked about the status of the recommendations for code and standards changes related to stormwater management, water quality and related natural resources protections as set forth in Attachment 1 to the July 7, 2009, Planning Commission Transmittal Memorandum. Public Works Director Susie Smith commented that the agenda materials were provided by Planning Supervisor Jim Donovan. She said there was a five-year work plan for the Stormwater Management Plan and within that construct there were phases of development code review and update related specifically to stormwater and engineering standards, although that work had not yet been done. Regarding pervious pavement, she said PW was tracking and studying best management practices (BMP) and materials, which were in a state of evolution, and would have better information when it commenced that task in the work plan.

Commissioner Beyer asked if the City was encouraging builders to use pervious paving materials when improving sites. Mr. Stouder replied that as part of the site review process developers were required to meet certain stormwater management requirements to reduce runoff or to keep the levels lower to prevent degradation of water quality. There was a list of BMPs from which developers could choose, including permeable pavers, although the City did not encourage or discourage any particular option.

Ms. Smith added that the information in the agenda packet represented recommendations from a consultant for PW to consider during the code review phase of the Stormwater Management Plan update process.

Mr. Gottfried commented that the use of pervious pavement where there were City wells for domestic water and no control over spill management needs careful consideration to ensure that petroleum spills and leaks from vehicles don't contaminate sensitive groundwater aquifers.

In response to a question regarding installation of an impermeable lining in those areas that would prevent runoff from entering the ground water and redirect it to the stormwater system. Mr. Stouder replied that permeable pavements were considered a BMP from a water quality facility perspective and as water percolated through the sub-base it was considered to be "clean." He said the City work closely with the Springfield Utility Board (SUB) on surface infiltration issues.

Commissioner Moore remarked that during a recent addition to her home she had been required to have rain gutter runoff to the street. She felt that an approach that directed rain water runoff away from the street and out of the stormwater system, such as a rain garden, was a wise use of that water. Mr. Gottfried said that Environmental Services Water Resources Supervisor George Walker was investigating that option and discussing with plumbing inspectors the restrictions on how rooftop runoff was managed. He said that inspectors were beginning to recognize that a rain garden, properly installed, was just as effective as any other stormwater management system.

Commissioners requested, and Susie Smith agreed, that staff return at a future date to present more information and discussion on the stormwater program and how pervious pavements might be best utilized in the City.

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.