



**LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE
Meeting Action Report**

Committee: Planning & Development

Members: City Representative Ann Morgan Lilly (Chair)
City Representative Susie Byrd
City Representative Beto O'Rourke
City Representative Rachel Quintana

Date of Meeting: August 23, 2010

This Meeting Action Report includes agenda items where action was taken by the Planning & Development Legislative Review Committee (LRC), and where City Council finalization of the direction received is necessary. Items postponed for future action of the LRC are not included in this Report.

1. Discussion and Action on amending the historic tax exemption incentive program to provide up to 100% exemption for City property taxes for eligible properties.

Summary:

City staff summarized that current Code provisions allow for a partial exemption from taxation of certain property taxes for renovations to historically significant property, and that a revision to allow for a complete exemption on the collection of the City's portion of property taxes for a specified period of time is recommended. This change would further encourage the preservation of sites by property owners by allowing:

- if the value of the improvements is equal to 50% or more of the assessed value of the property, the City's portion of taxes shall be zero for 10 years;
- If the value of the improvements is between 40-49.99% of the assessed value of the property, the City's portion of taxes shall be zero for 8 years;
- If the value of the improvements is between 30-39.99% of the assessed value of the property, the City's portion of taxes shall be zero for 6 years; and
- If the value of the improvements is between 20-29.99% of the assessed value of the property, the City's portion of taxes shall be zero for 4 years.

No public comment was received.

Action Taken:

The LRC voted unanimously 3-0 to recommend approval of the proposed amendment to the historic tax exemption as presented.

Disposition:

The formal report of the LRC meeting will be scheduled on August 31, 2010.

2. Discussion and Action on El Paso City Code requirements for installation of bike racks for new, additions, enlargements, or changes in use of all buildings or facilities; and recommendations to amend Title 20 (Zoning), Section 20.14.090 (Bicycle Parking Required) of the El Paso City Code to exempt certain commercial businesses along high traffic corridors and streets, and revisions to address application and enforcement of such requirements, as requested by City Representation Emma Acosta.

Summary:

An overview of the current Code requirements was presented. City staff commented that the item was scheduled to address (District 3) complaints received from various businesses regarding the bike rack requirements, particularly from businesses along the gateways and other major corridors where no bike paths are designated. It had been suggested that staff restudy how the requirements are imposed so that only businesses along certain bike corridors have the requirement and other areas be exempt to address safety considerations. The District 3 office was not in attendance, and no public comment was received.

Action Taken:

The LRC voted unanimously 3-0 to recommend that no action or change be taken to the existing bicycle parking requirements within Title 20 (Zoning) of the El Paso City Code.

Disposition:

The formal report of the LRC meeting will be scheduled on August 31, 2010.

3. Discussion and Action on El Paso City Code requirements permitting dual park-pond areas; and recommendations to amend Title 19 (Subdivisions), Chapter 19.20 (Parks & Open Space) of the El Paso City Code, as requested by City Representative Susie Byrd.

Summary:

An overview of the current Code requirements was presented, as well as examples of recent park-pond developments. Discussion ensued on opportunities for expanded use of collocated parks and stormwater facilities. No public input was received.

Action Taken:

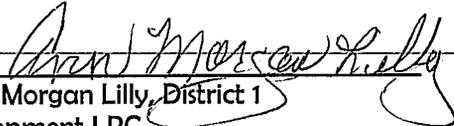
The LRC voted unanimously 3-0 to recommend that City staff restudy the Code provisions and design standards for park-pond use in order to make their application more flexible, and that a report of suggestions for change be presented to the LRC within a reasonable time period (60-90 days).

Disposition:

The formal report of the LRC meeting will be scheduled on August 31, 2010.

4. Set next meeting date and discussion item(s). City Representative Beto O'Rourke requested that a meeting be scheduled (perhaps jointly with the Transportation LRC) within the next 45 days to discuss the Southern Relief Route.

SUBMITTED BY:


City Representative Ann Morgan Lilly, District 1
Chair, Planning & Development LRC


Patricia D. Adauto, Deputy City Manager
City Manager – Development & Infrastructure



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CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE – PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

City Hall, Two Civic Center Plaza, 2nd Floor, City Council Chambers

Monday, August 23, 2010

9:00 a.m.

MINUTES

AGENDA

1. Call to Order & Establish Quorum.

Meeting called to order at 9:08 a.m., Committee Chair Ann Lilly present and presiding and the following Committee Members were present:

City Representative Susie Byrd

City Representative Beto O'Rourke

City Representative Rachel Quintana – Not Present

2. Approval of Minutes for the Planning & Development Legislative Review Committee meeting of July 14, 2010.

No Discussion.

MOTION MADE by City Representative Susie Byrd, seconded by City Representative Beto O'Rourke and unanimously carried to approve the minutes as presented for July 14, 2010. [Approved 3-0]

3. Discussion and Action on amending the historic tax exemption incentive program to provide up to 100% exemption for City property taxes for eligible properties. [Economic Development, Kathryn Dodson, (915) 541-4670]

Ms. Kathy Dodson, Economic Development introduced the item; Mr. David Samaniego, Economic Development gave a Power Point presentation. [Presentation on file]

Comments made by:

City Representative Beto O'Rourke

City Representative Ann Lilly

No public comments made.

MOTION MADE BY City Representative Susie Byrd, seconded by City Representative Beto O'Rourke and unanimously carried to approve the proposed amendment to the historic tax exemption incentive program as presented by city staff. [Approved 3-0]

4. Discussion and Action on El Paso City Code requirements for installation of bike racks for new, additions, enlargements, or changes in use of all buildings or facilities; and recommendations to amend Title 20 (Zoning), Section 20.14.090 (Bicycle Parking Required) of the El Paso City Code to exempt certain commercial businesses along high traffic corridors and streets, and revisions to address application and enforcement of such requirements. [Representative Emma Acosta, (915) 541-4122]

Mr. Philip Etiwe, Development Svcs/Planning Division, gave an overview on the current code requirements. [PowerPoint Presentation on file]

Comments made by:

City Representative Beto O'Rourke

Ms. Patricia Aduato, DCM, Development & Infrastructure

No Public Comments made.

MOTION MADE BY City Representative Beto O'Rourke, seconded by City Representative Susie Byrd and unanimously carried to make no changes and retain the current code. [Approved 3-0]

5. Discussion and Action on El Paso City Code requirements permitting dual park-pond areas; and recommendations to amend Title 19 (Subdivisions), Chapter 19.20 (Parks & Open Space) of the El Paso City Code. [Representative Susie Byrd, (915) 541-4416]

Mr. Alan Shubert, Engineering, gave an overview of the current code requirements.

Comments made by:
City Representative Susie Byrd
City Representative Ann Lilly
Mr. Kareem Dallo, Planning Division

No public comments made.

MOTION MADE BY City Representative Ann Lilly, seconded by City Representative Susie Byrd and unanimously carried that staff restudy the code requirements and design standards for park-pond use in order to make their application more flexible, and that a report of suggestions for change be presented back to the Legislative Review Committee. [Approved 3-0]

6. Discussion and Action on the Smart Growth Cohort Report, and next steps to implementation of the report recommendations. [Economic Development, Kathryn Dodson, (915) 541-4670]

Ms. Kathy Dodson, Economic Development, introduced the item; Ms. Julie Baldwin, Engineering, gave an overview on the Urban & Regional Planning Certificate Program. [PowerPoint presentation on file]

Comments made by:
City Representative Ann Lilly
City Representative Beto O'Rourke
Ms. Patricia Adatao, DCM, Development & Infrastructure

No public comments made.

No Action Required.

7. Set next meeting date and discussion item(s) for the agenda of the next meeting.

A request was made by City Representative Beto O'Rourke to schedule a joint meeting with the Transportation LRC to discuss the Southern Relief Route within the next 45 days.

8. Adjournment. Meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT: _____

Department Head