Commissioners present:  
Maria Ambalada  
Jeff Davies  
Elisa Elliott  
Tia Peycheff  
Michael Wojack  
Richard Wright  

Staff present:  
Ron Hough, Planning Manager  
Keith Maw, Associate Planner  
Shay Davidson, Admin. Assistant  
Lynn Sordel, Parks & Rec. Director  

Commissioners absent:  
Patrick Decker  

CALL TO ORDER
A quorum was present and this meeting was called to order by First Vice-chair Elliott at 7:01 pm in the Council Chambers of Lynnwood City Hall. Chair Decker was ill and not in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Commissioner Wright noted an error on page 3 of the minutes of the April 12, 2007 Planning Commission meeting. He asked that the last sentence of the second paragraph be changed to read, “. . . suggesting that the City would have a better informed public about the sign regulations.” The minutes were approved with that correction.

COUNCIL LIASON REPORT
Council member Hikel advised staff earlier in the day that he had a meeting conflict. He would try to attend this meeting but would probably arrive late.

CITIZEN COMMENTS
No comments offered.

PUBLIC HEARING
None scheduled.

WORK SESSIONS

1. Comprehensive Plan Amendment - Parks & Recreation Element Update
Parks and Recreation Director Lynn Sordel described this year’s proposed amendments to the Parks & Recreation Element. Among the important issues to be dealt with are a deficit in acreage of core parks and the conversion of the Lynnwood High School acreage to other uses. The deficit is expected to increase to more than 50 acres and, although new recreational facilities will be built at the North Road LHS site, we can’t count them in our level of service because they are not in Lynnwood. He also described threats to the
Lund’s Gulch area resulting from new development and emphasized the need for low-impact design standards in that area. Lynnwood has an established level of service but we also have growing parks and open space deficits. The City needs some of the key tools that are used in other jurisdictions, such as park impact fees and dedication requirements.

In response to questions from the Commission, Director Sordel described the types of programs used in other cities to acquire and build parks and talked about efforts to get grant funding for park development. North Lynnwood Park and Daleway Park will soon be improved. Stadler Ridge Park and Rowe Park are ready for development but not yet funded. Tutmark Hill Park, located in the unincorporated area east of Interstate 5, was purchased by Snohomish County and, by agreement, Lynnwood will begin developing it next year. He also indicated that the demand is growing for dog off-leash parks and he will be looking into that possibility as well.

2. Comprehensive Plan Amendment - 5-year Implementation Program

Planning Manager Hough described the purpose of the program matrix as a way to bring together “measurable objectives” and policies from other elements of the Plan. Most items on the matrix are from the Departments of Public Works, Parks and Community Development. Seven items that pertain primarily to neighborhood planning are listed as “Unassigned Projects.” They were originally proposed in 2002 when the Dept. of Community Development and Planning Commission began a series of neighborhood planning work sessions. That effort ended in the spring of 2002 and it was suggested that these objectives be reserved for future assignment to a new department that would be more directly involved with neighborhoods.

Parks Director Sordel explained some of the changes to Parks Dept. programs and the Commission had no further questions or comments.

BUSINESS

None scheduled.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT & INFORMATION

Briefing: Energy Element for Comprehensive Plan

Associate Planner Keith Maw described why Lynnwood needs an Energy Element. He pointed to energy usage trends and explained how this element will help us understand how we use energy and how we will be impacted by future changes. He noted that 76% of energy is used for the building and operation of buildings. Only about one percent of energy is used for transportation, but it’s virtually all petroleum. He described how the new element will address energy usage in several areas that we will have some control over, including land use, transportation, capital facilities, utilities and economic development. Energy will be a major growth industry in coming years.

Mr. Maw described the planning process being used to create the new element, the schedule and the CTED planning grant that was obtained in early 2006. He also described the Planning Commission’s role in the process and the need for their review of proposals and feedback to staff. Staff is currently doing an energy inventory, which will be followed by a carbon footprint of Lynnwood. City policies are being reviewed and the element will lead to new goals, objectives, policies, implementing actions and a monitoring program.
The Planning Commission generally agreed with the growing need for better energy planning and expressed considerable interest in this effort.

**Upcoming Commission Meetings**

Planning Manager Hough reviewed upcoming meetings schedule and noted that the two May meetings will be work sessions on the plan amendments, leading to June hearings.

Mr. Hough reminded the Commission that Lynnwood will be hosting a Planning Short Course on May 17 in our Council Chambers. The course is designed primarily for planning commissioners and is a continuation of the one held in Kenmore in March. Two guest speakers will present the materials and our Council President Simmonds has agreed to talk about Council/Commission communications and expectations.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Commissioner Ambalada and seconded by Commissioner Wright to adjourn. This meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.

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Patrick Decker, Chair