

**DRAFT**

MINUTES OF THE  
RAPID CITY PLANNING COMMISSION  
Training Session  
January 19, 2010  
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Erik Braun, John Brewer, Barb Collins, Doug Kinniburgh, Dennis Landguth, Linda Marchand and Andrew Scull. Karen Gundersen-Olson, Council Liaison was also present

STAFF PRESENT: Marcia Elkins, Bob Dominicak, Monica Heller, Ali DeMersseman, Patsy Horton, Jim Flaaen, Mary Bosworth, Karley Halsted and Carol Campbell.

Scull called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m.

**---TRAINING SESSION---**

1. Sidewalk Installation requirements.

Heller presented the staff concerns with the existing ordinances addressing the requirements for sidewalks. Heller further identified proposed options available to the Planning Commission regarding installation of sidewalks. Heller commented on the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan that is being developed. Heller reviewed additional alternatives to the existing Ordinances to create a more pedestrian/cyclist friendly City.

Heller commented on the availability of funding from the Capital Improvements Program for ADA improvements.

Heller reviewed the circumstances that would require installation of sidewalks. Heller identified the possible options to change the existing Ordinance regarding the installation of sidewalks.

In response to Scull's question, Heller stated that the changes to the Ordinance would require the property owner to install sidewalks.

Elkins stated that Council has expressed an interest in making the community more pedestrian friendly and creating a mechanism to insuring sidewalks are installed.

Landguth expressed his concern with the time frame between the origination of the development and the completion of all construction.

Marchand expressed her support for insuring sidewalks are installed at the time of development. Marchand expressed her support for a pedestrian friendly community.

Elkins stated that the option to "order in" sidewalks has been utilized by Council in the past. Discussion followed.

Marchand expressed her opposition to the “truncated domes” on the corners of sidewalks.

Elkins stated that the “domes” are required by ADA. Elkins further stated that there is a possibility that they will be eliminated at some time in the future.

Brewer expressed objections to the option requiring the installation of sidewalks when any building permit is issued. A brief discussion followed.

Karen Gunderson-Olsen expressed her support for pedestrian friendly walkways supporting a community health benefit.

Elkins reiterated the options available to the Planning Commission. Elkins asked the Planning Commission if there were any amendments they would like staff to bring forward for advertisement.

Landguth expressed his concern with the lack of sidewalks on undeveloped lots in new commercial and residential areas.

Scull expressed his support for changes to the requirement for sidewalk installation. Scull commented on the difficulty with the requirement to install sidewalks in existing developments.

Kinniburgh expressed his support for the variance process to handle the individual situations that are exceptional. Kinniburgh expressed his support for the requirement to install sidewalks at the time of development. Discussion followed.

Heller identified that currently there is no requirement for installation of a sidewalk connection from the right-of-way to the structure other than through a Planned Development. Heller reviewed possible options to requirement a sidewalk connection.

In response to Elkins’ question, Heller stated that other communities only required the sidewalk connection in a commercial area.

In response to Gunderson-Olsen’s question, Heller stated that there is no option currently available for staff to require a sidewalk connection with the exception in a Planned Development.

Discussion followed regarding pedestrian sidewalks along State Highways.

Collins expressed her opinion that pedestrian pathways are an indicator that sidewalks should be installed.

Heller reviewed the various width requirements for sidewalks. Heller further noted the ADA recommended width.

Dominicak reviewed the development of the current sidewalk installation noting

the recommendations that were provided by the Council Development Committee to require that sidewalks be constructed at the time of development. Dominicak commented on the time frames associated with the requirement for the installation of sidewalks. Dominicak reviewed the options for the Planning Commission's consideration.

Collins expressed her support for a specific time frame to install sidewalks. Discussion followed.

In response to a question, Elkins reviewed the remedy available to Council to "order in" sidewalks. Discussion followed.

Discussion followed regarding the benefit of each of the possible options requiring the installation of sidewalks.

Gunderson-Olsen commented on the benefit to children with regard to the installation of sidewalks.

Elkins recommended that the option regarding the Department of Transportation be delayed for consideration to have further conversations with the Department of Transportation staff.

Heller reviewed the option to require the installation of sidewalks at the time of redevelopment or expansion. Discussion followed.

Discussion followed regarding the requirement to install a sidewalk in an area where currently none exist.

Kinniburgh expressed his support for the option to require sidewalks to be constructed within five years of the final plat approval.

Landguth requested that staff provide language that combine options that require sidewalks to be installed on one side when a roadway is constructed and on the other side of the street within five years of the Final Plat approval. Discussion followed.

Elkins stated that staff would provide language for consideration by the Planning Commission.

Heller requested that the Planning Commission consider revisions to the ordinance to require that pedestrian walkways be extended from the right-of-way to the structure. Discussion followed.

Elkins suggested that staff provide language for consideration by the Planning Commission.

Heller presented the options to meet the ADA requirement for sidewalk widths.

Elkins recommended that staff provide language for consideration by the Planning Commission. Discussion followed.

Heller presented the option for when sidewalks are required to be installed when property is redeveloped or expanded. Elkins added that staff would provide language for consideration. Discussion followed.

Discussion followed regarding the need for the installation of sidewalks in a residential neighborhood.

Elkins stated that the Planning Commission would receive notice of a meeting regarding the Bikeway/Pedestrian Plan.

In response to Kinniburgh's question on sidewalk cafes, Elkins stated that the Planning Commission determined that staff would monitor the use through the next season and bring forward a recommendation in the Fall of 2010.

**There being no further business, Marchand moved, Collins seconded and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 12:54 a.m. (6 to 0 with Braun, Collins, Kinniburgh, Landguth, Marchand and Scull voting yes and none voting no)**