

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTIES OF POTTER §
AND RANDALL §
CITY OF AMARILLO §

On April 9, 2014, the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Advisory Committee met in a scheduled session at 12:00 P.M. in Conference Room in 306, on the third floor of City Hall, 509 East 7th Avenue, Amarillo, Texas, with the following members present:

VOTING MEMBERS	PRESENT	NO. MEETINGS HELD	NO. MEETINGS ATTENDED
Bill Chudej	Yes	23	16
Bob Juba, Chair	No	23	17
Wes Knapp	Yes	23	17
Eddie Scott	Yes	23	18
Howard Smith, Vice Chair	Yes	23	22
Dana Walton	Yes	23	16
Milford Burrell	Yes	20	18
Steve Rogers	Yes	7	5
Mark Meister	Yes	2	2

CITY STAFF:

Bob Cowell, Assistant City Manager
Kelley Shaw, Planning Director
Kathleen Collins, Planner II

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Garry Rich, Old Tascosa Cycling
Kenneth Graham, Share the Road

Mr. Smith opened the meeting, established a quorum, and conducted the consideration of the following items beginning with ITEM 1.

ITEM 1: Approve the minutes of the Committee’s February 12, 2014 meeting

Mr. Smith asked if there were any questions on the previous meeting’s minutes. Hearing none, a motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Ms. Walton, seconded by Mr. Burrell, and carried unanimously.

ITEM 2: Presentation and discussion on amendments related to elements within the Downtown Amarillo Urban Design Standards

Mr. Smith invited Mr. Shaw to speak on this item. Mr. Shaw gave a brief history of the Downtown Strategic Action Plan and Downtown Amarillo Urban Design Standards (DAUDS), noting the standards provide protection for quality development. Main focuses include the placement of new buildings to promote a pedestrian friendly, walkable environment as well as preservation and restoration of historic buildings.

With a majority of new ordinances and standards, it is necessary to review and consider amendments from time to time. Mr. Shaw mentioned ten DAUDS projects have been through the review process in the past three years. Current standards allow for the grandfathering of all existing improvements, consequently only new construction triggers DAUDS improvements. A

DAUDS subcommittee was formed to address and discuss issues with these standards and recommend potential amendments. The main concerns included walkway improvement triggers, placement of the building edge in relation to street fronts, and drive-thru facilities.

Proposed amendments that would prompt walkway improvements include major building modifications (increasing a building's footprint by 50% or more) as well as projects that increase a building's façade by 50 feet or more along a public right-of-way. Proposed amendments to building placement in relation to street fronts include requiring newly constructed buildings or additions to be located no more than five feet from the property or right-of-way line. Proposed amendments addressing the drive-thru section include a review by the Downtown Design Review Board, specific placement and screening of the drive-thru segment of buildings, and pedestrian access to such facilities. A majority of the above-mentioned amendments resulted from the actual review of projects.

Mr. Burrell questioned the next steps in the process of implementing the proposed standards. Mr. Shaw stated that the proposed amendments were presented to the Downtown Amarillo Inc. Board of Directors with a majority of comments being positive in nature. Planning staff will host a property owner meeting to present the proposed amendments and gain additional feedback. If the property owner meeting is positive, the following actions would be a recommendation by CPAC to the Amarillo Planning and Zoning Commission for consideration of such amendments. The Planning and Zoning Commission would recommend such amendments to the City Council. Finally, the City Council would adopt the suggested revisions. Several opportunities will be provided for public comment throughout the aforementioned process.

ITEM 3: Public Forum: Comments from interested citizens on matters directly pertaining to City policies, programs or services

Mr. Smith asked for public comments. Mr. Graham requested the CPAC address targeted pedestrian/bicycle safety improvements as recommended in the Comprehensive Plan. He asked the committee to facilitate some movement in implementing an active transportation plan.

Kelley Shaw
Planning Director