Saint Paul Planning Commission
City Hall Conference Center
15 Kellogg Boulevard West

Minutes for January 30, 2015

A meeting of the Planning Commission of the City of Saint Paul was held Friday, January 30, 2015, at 8:30 a.m. in the Conference Center of City Hall.

Commissioners Present:	Mmes. DeJoy, McMahon, Noecker, Padilla, Reveal, Shively, Thao; and Messrs. Connolly, Edgerton, Gelgelu, Lindeke, Makarios, Nelson, Ochs, Oliver, Ward, and Wickiser.
Commissioners Absent:	Mmes. *Merrigan, *Underwood, *Wang, and *Wencl. *Excused
Also Present:	Donna Drummond, Planning Director; Lucy Thompson, Bill Dermody, Josh Williams, Hilary Holmes, and Sonja Butler, Department of Planning and Economic Development staff.

I. Approval of minutes January 16, 2015.

MOTION: ***Commissioner Nelson moved approval of the minutes of January 16, 2015. Commissioner Gelgelu seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.***

II. Chair's Announcements

Commissioner Reveal, the Commission's First Vice-Chair, chaired the meeting.

Report of the Nominating Committee and Election of Officers.

Commissioner Reveal reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee. The committee offered the following slate of officers: Barbara A. Wencl for Chair, Elizabeth Reveal for First Vice-Chair, Paula Merrigan for Second Vice Chair, and Daniel Ward, II for Secretary.

First Vice Chair Reveal called for nominations from the floor. There were none.

MOTION: ***Commissioner McMahon moved to approve the slate of candidates. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.***

III. Planning Director's Announcements

Donna Drummond announced that the City Council approved the Shepard Davern Area Plan and Zoning Study. Councilmember Tolbert proposed an amendment to the plan to add some design guidelines for new development in the area to make it more walkable and transit-user friendly. That was in response to the planned redevelopment of Sibley Plaza. The previous night there was

another Ford site community meeting. This meeting was focused on the energy study. It was a great turn out with about 170 people attending. There will be additional Ford community meetings coming up by subject area, such as streets, open spaces, biking, and walking.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING: West Side Flats Master Plan and Development Guidelines – Item from the Neighborhood Planning Committee. *(Lucy Thompson, 651/266-6578)*

First Vice Chair Reveal announced that the Saint Paul Planning Commission was holding a public hearing on the West Side Flats Master Plan and Development Guidelines. Notices of the public hearing were published in the Saint Paul Pioneer Press on January 12, 2015, January 19, 2015 and January 26, 2015; were published in the Legal Ledger on January 19, 2015; and were sent to the city-wide Early Notification System list of recipients and other interested parties and all property owners within the study area.

Lucy Thompson, PED staff, gave a power point presentation which can be seen on the web page at: http://stpaul.gov/index.aspx?NID=3430

First Vice Chair Reveal read the rules of procedure for the public hearing.

The following people spoke.

1. Chris Karpovich, Plant Manager at Rexam Beverage Cans in Saint Paul. In November. Mr. Karpovich attended an informational meeting hosted by PED regarding proposed rezonings in the study area. It was at this time that it was confirmed that the existing Rexam building is not shown on the Illustrative Plan, which is a conceptual plan for the full build-out of the study area 30 years into the future. Rexam employs 110 people, pays annual property taxes of over $200,000, maintains an $8 million payroll, just spent $1 million on a new roof and is planning to spend $12 million this year for a new washer. Mr. Karpovich is concerned that a future park and streets are shown where Rexam currently sits. While the Master Plan suggests that this work will not occur for 20-30 years, and only in conjunction with private redevelopment, Mr. Karpovich remains very worried about the future of the company. He asked the Planning Commission to amend the master plan by removing the proposed street grid and park shown in Phase IV. He supports the language proposed by the Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce.

2. Jim Whebbe, Rexam employee and member of the United Steele Workers Local 7796 has worked at that plant for about 14 years. He is a second generation employee. He wants to see Rexam there for many more generations to come, and asked that the Planning Commission remove the proposed street grid and park in Phase IV.

3. Thomas Adams, Rexam employee for 8 years. He is a second generation employee and hopes his son will become the third generation at Rexam. He wants to work there for the rest of his career - at least 25 more years. Mr. Adams is opposed to the proposed street grid and park in Phase IV.

4. John Humphrey, second-generation Rexam employee. Mr. Humphrey asked that the City take another look at the street grid and try to make this plant work for the next 30 or 40 years, instead of just 20 years.

5. Ryan Cloud, Rexam employee. Rexam's planned $12 million investment will benefit him as an employee. He would like to see revisions to ensure that he can still be working at Rexam in 30-40 years.

6. Michael Belaen, Director of Public Affairs and Legal Counsel, Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Belaen recognized City staff, task force and the community as a whole for the work they put into developing this plan. As part of the planning process, the Chamber and the Saint Paul Port Authority met with business owners and property owners in the West Side Flats to hear their thoughts about this proposed plan. The Chamber submitted detailed written comments; Mr. Belaen reiterated the Chamber's main points. The Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce (SPACC) is generally supportive of the draft plan. They believe that Saint Paul would benefit greatly from the vision laid out in the draft plan. However, they are concerned that some of the proposed street and park improvements will negatively affect the existing productive use of private property. To alleviate these concerns, the SPACC believes that the Phase IV street and park improvements should be removed and stronger language against the use of eminent domain should be incorporated into the draft plan. Model language is provided in their written comments. Mr. Belaen also stated that proposed building heights might be problematic for future development west of Robert Street.

   Commissioner Lindeke asked for clarification on Mr. Belaen's concern regarding building height.

   Mr. Belaen said that, after they submitted their written comments, they heard from a property owner concerned about the proposed maximum acceptable height for the area bounded by Fillmore, the railroad tracks, the river and Livingston.

   Commissioner Ward asked about the possible use of eminent domain, and whether Mr. Belaen has heard from other businesses besides Rexam.

   Mr. Belaen stated that business owners are concerned about the language on page 106 because it uses language like "the City is *not likely to use* eminent domain" or that it is *not likely that the City will have the financial resources* to build public infrastructure unless it is done in conjunction with private redevelopment. This leaves open the possibility that eminent domain will be used. The businesses that have voiced concern to his knowledge are Rexam and the American Red Cross.

   Commissioner Ward asked about the Chamber's experience in responding to businesses considering a move to Saint Paul.

   Mr. Belaen said that he has not heard from any businesses exploring opportunities in the West Side Flats, but his experience would suggests that if a City is proposing roads through a property, it would prevent someone from considering the area.

7. Guy Humphrey is USW Local 7796 president representing 92 USW workers at the Rexam plant. He has worked at Rexam for 10 years and he plans on working another 35 years. He is concerned that showing the street grid and park where Rexam is now might create uncertainty on the part of the company as to whether they should make improvements to the building and machinery.

Commissioner Thao asked if Rexam's parent corporation has a market or trends study that they might want to submit as part of their testimony.

Mr. Humphrey is not sure if there is a market study.

Commissioner Connolly asked whether the annual maintenance costs for the proposed streets and parks were considered as part of the planning process.

Commissioner Reveal replied that the planning process did not get that detailed; it is a master concept plan. The general goal was to have green space east of Robert, but the exact location could shift in conjunction with new development opportunities.

Commissioner Connolly asked where the idea for Eva Street Park came from.

Commissioner Reveal said it came from community members, staff and the task force. The notion was to have both pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly amenities in the job center, and have the green space somewhere east of Robert.

8. Joseph Johnson, Rexam employee. He still has at least 35 more years left to work, so the notion of this taking effect 20 years into the future is of little comfort to him. He asked that this plan be sent back to edit and eliminate the parks improvement plan as well as the street grid system.

9. Wayne Krongard, Rexam employee. When he hears that 20 years down the road he might have to look for another job, that concerns him a lot. This company needs to stay a lot longer than 20 years. He votes no for Phase IV of the *West Side Flats Master Plan*.

   Commissioner Connolly asked how many people work at the plant.

   Mr. Krongard said 92.

   Commissioner Connolly asked how much money a Rexam employee spends in Saint Paul in an average week or month.

   Mr. Krongard stated that he does not know, but might be able to submit that information at a later time.

10. Kathy Dahm, Rexam employee and union member. Her father, husband, brother and son have all worked at Rexam, and have together been employed there for 60 years. Rexam is not just a factory; it also helps the community through such things as summer internships and Second Harvest events.

    Commissioner DeJoy asked how potential employees can get a foot hold in at Rexam.

    Ms. Dahm replied that the summer internship program is an excellent way to find good full-time, permanent employees.

11. Jim Koshenina, Rexam employee. Referring to the question asked earlier about how much money the Rexam employees spend in Saint Paul, he stated that one day a month, the plant

purchases pizza or food from local businesses that can cost up to $2,000. Mr. Koshenina also buys lunch 2-3 times a week, so his money is left in Saint Paul. He asked that the street grid and park plan be sent back for editing so that Rexam can stay.

12. A.J. Martinez, Rexam employee. He does not want to be looking for a new job in 20 years. The picture that Saint Paul should be putting out is that people have jobs; if Rexam is taken away, there will just be a park left.

13. Robert Ferguson, member of the Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission and the WSCO Riverfront Development and Land Use Committee, but speaking as a resident of the West Side and not on behalf of those groups. He strongly supports this plan. He remains conflicted about the building heights issue, but that does not mean that his support of this plan is conditional. Mr. Ferguson believes the process for public discussion for this and other issues was thorough, open and inclusive, and he thanked PED staff, the Saint Paul Design Center, Friends of the Mississippi River and the National Park Service for their help with this process. One issue that he has heard disagreement recently about is the eventual re-establishment of the street grid, a crucial element that is retained and strengthened from the 2001 plan. Throughout this process, the existing industrial businesses have been recognized as valued members of the community; in fact, the plan proposes to "retain and grow those businesses while enabling a more diverse mix of contemporary industrial office and commercial uses in the employment center." No one is being forced out, no one is being asked to leave. The eventual restoration of the historic block pattern on the West Side Flats will enhance the character, connectivity and livability of the West Side for businesses and residents, and will benefit the city as a whole. He urged the Commission to support adoption of this plan.

    Commissioner Connolly asked about the reasoning behind the goal of breaking up super blocks.

    Mr. Ferguson replied that it is his personal experience as a lifelong "militant pedestrian" that by walking, he knows the city better and feels he is strengthening his own immediate neighborhood and the city as a whole. Super blocks tend not to be pedestrian-friendly; they are for the convenience of semi-trailers, not pedestrians. He believes w will be physically healthier and healthier as a community if we get out and meet each other on the street and walk, rather than driving around in our cars all the time.

    Commissioner Connolly said that the lens through which he sees things is jobs, property tax base and economic development. He asked whether there is evidence that re-establishing street grids and breaking up super blocks makes for economically healthier cities with more job opportunities and a more sustainable tax base.

    Mr. Ferguson said that he is not qualified to answer that.

    Ms. Thompson, PED staff, said she does not know of studies off- hand but noted that developers have said that street frontage creates addresses, which creates real estate value.

    Commissioner Padilla said that, as a land use attorney, she is concerned that showing proposed streets and parks on a map in a Comprehensive Plan does make it look very certain that that is what is going to happen. She does not understand why the reconnections or park

areas cannot be stated as goals without mapping them on specific properties. She is a little confused about the point of the map itself and the delineation of streets and park space on specific properties. She thinks they could achieve what is being talked about by speaking about goals when private development allows for such opportunities. She is also concerned that they are adopting an Illustrative Plan generally because, in her experience, when you adopt a map as an official control, it becomes much more certain. (Note from staff: this plan is not being adopted as an Official Map.) Commissioner Padilla is unclear about the process and what the expectations are for businesses. She thinks it is inconsistent to say we want you here but we're going to put a street on your property.

Commissioner Lindeke asked Mr. Ferguson if the street grid is historic and what the Flats looked like before the flood of 1952.

Mr. Ferguson responded that the street grid shown on the map is not an exact restoration of the historic grid. In response to Commissioner Padilla's question, he stated that, in his experience, maps and graphics are much more meaningful to people than words.

14. Carol Swenson resides on the West Side and is very active in the West Side Community Organization. She also served on the master plan task force. Ms. Swenson thanked Ms. Thompson, Commissioner Reveal, other task force members, consultants, WSCO staff and community members who worked hard to develop this plan. She supports the plan as proposed, because the plan embraces and complements the West Wide Community Plan and other small area plans for the Flats. In support of the plan, there are two critical issues that have come forward: building heights and restoration of the street grid. Regarding building heights, the most desirable development pattern would generate buildings of various heights, offering multiple views of the river valley, and preserving a place that makes this part of the river valley truly unique. She urges the Planning Commission to establish a standardized process and criteria for conducting a visual impact analysis and, in the case of the West Side Flats, make it mandatory, not discretionary. Regarding the proposed street grid, it is important to remember that the purpose of the plan is to take the long view, and provide forethought and guidance so that opportunities are not missed as change occurs. Restoring a smaller-scale street grid and block pattern as development occurs will encourage diverse building types, land uses and transportation choices. On the West Side Flats, it would increase access to the river via foot, bicycle, wheelchair or automobile.

Commissioner Lindeke asked how many West Side residents were engaged during the process.

Ms. Thompson replied around 200.

Commissioner Ward asked Ms. Swenson if she knows what groups, businesses or interests were involved in the planning process.

Ms. Swenson said that she primarily attended the task force meetings, which involved different community stakeholders, including a business owner from Wabasha Deli, Lorrie Louder from the Saint Paul Port Authority, and a developer. There was ample opportunity to bring these issues forward all along the way, including special focus groups with developers and businesses. She believes that the planners and the consultants reached out to all of the different sectors.

15. Rory Stierler, staff of the National Park Service (NPS)/Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA). The West Side Flats Master Plan area is entirely within their park boundary, the only national park about the Mississippi River. They are supportive of the draft master plan. The NPS participated in the drafting of the master plan. He thanked the City staff and community members involved. The purpose of the plan is to guide future private development and public infrastructure projects in the area. It lays out a guide for the future, putting the city in a place to be proactive to changes in the future. The Flats provide a unique opportunity to revitalize 120 acres of riverfront with urban riverfront trails and open spaces connecting to the river, urban parks greenways and plazas. The urban street grid will emphasize multi-modal transportation opportunities and natural stormwater management. They commend the City for coming up with a compromise on building height that balances density with preserving the unique character of the river valley.

Commissioner Ward asked whether this park is under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service.

Mr. Stierler responded that MNRRA is a partnership park. It is a 72-mile corridor with 54,000 acres; the NPS owns about 60 acres. Since local communities regulate the Critical Area, NPS' primary purpose is to help coordinate local decisions and ensure that communities are looking at a broader lens. The river is a shared resource, and what one community is doing affects another.

Commissioner Ward asked who would have jurisdiction over this park.

Mr. Stierler replied that the federal government does not have any jurisdiction through the NPS.

16. Wes Saunders-Pearce, Water Resource Coordinator for the City of Saint Paul. He wants to emphasize to the Planning Commission the value of the Plan's green infrastructure and the West Side Flat Greenway. The master plan calls for integrating park design with stormwater management via the West Side Flats Greenway. The strength is in the scale and design approach of using stormwater in a way that is visible and expressed at the surface. In short, the Master Plan sets clear guidance for green infrastructure, melding open space and water resource management.

Commissioner Connolly asked how Mr. Saunders-Pearce's work is integrated with individual on-site management of stormwater.

Mr. Saunders-Pearce said that they look at stormwater management in instances when a property will create an addition, modify a parking lot or make similar exterior improvements. Commissioner Ward noted that the Master Plan plans for stormwater management related to future development. He asked whether there is some other alternative to the Greenway.

Mr. Saunders-Pearce said the City looks at a lot of different ways that stormwater management could unfold in this redevelopment area. While the Plan sets an ambitious vision for combined open space and stormwater management, it is important to keep in mind that, if redevelopment occurs faster than the vision unfolds, the alternative would be to have stormwater management on-site. The Plan also contains strong guidance how to do that in a

way that would incorporate green infrastructure practices and principles. The primary goal is to integrate green infrastructure principles at all times during implementation of the plan.

Commissioner Ward asked whether some of this work will involve the Army Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Saunders-Pearce replied yes, to some extent. The project management team talked extensively about the levee wall, which Public Works Sewer Utility has administrative authority over but which must also conform with Army Corps standards.

Commissioner Nelson said that the regional stormwater plan would open up more land for development and reduce development costs by eliminating the need for on-site retention ponds or some type of underground system.

Mr. Saunders-Pearce said that concept is at the very heart of this type of approach. We have learned that there are cost efficiencies in doing a common or regional system at this scale. Also, when stormwater is handled project-by-project (and typically underground), it does not provide value to the community or the landscape.

17. Irene Jones, River Corridor Program Director with Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR), stated that FMR fully supports the master plan and asked that it be approved. This is a plan that will provide numerous benefits for the river and community. They support the height limit compromise reflected in the draft Plan, but FMR would have to reconsider its support of the Plan if the acceptable maximum heights are raised. FMR supports the Plan vision of a vibrant urban village on the banks of the river. They like the re-establishment of the street grid because it provides more visual and physical connections to the river. They also love the stormwater management concept, the improved pedestrian and bike access, and the many other aspects of the plan that will bring more density and activity to the river.

18. Lorrie Louder, Senior Vice President of Business and Intergovernmental Affairs with the Saint Paul Port Authority. Ms. Louder stated that City staff maintained good communication with the Port and was very responsive, even though the two staffs were not always in agreement. There are some very positive recommendations in this plan for both infrastructure upgrades (especially stormwater management) and visual enhancements. The Port has concerns in three areas: 1) the proposed street grid pattern (addresses are not as important to industrial users as residences); 2) the proposed Eva Street Park; and 3) the need for the eminent domain language recommended in the Chamber's letter. A letter and map were submitted by the Saint Paul Port Authority further explaining these concerns.

19. Mason Wells, representing West Side Community Organization (WSCO) District 3 Community Council. WSCO strongly supports and recommends adoption of the *West Side Flats Master Plan and Development Guidelines* without reservations. The Plan was created through a thoughtful, inclusive process, reflecting best practices in community engagement. It will expand the availability and diversity of housing; increase shopping, dining and entertainment options; create growth opportunities for existing and new businesses in the neighborhood; and protect the environmental assets of the area. They are excited about the future of the Flats, and they recommend the City's endorsement.

Commissioner Lindeke asked what the population is on the West Side.

Mr. Wells replied a little over 15,000.

Commissioner Connolly asked whether we establish in our area plans numerical goals for growth in housing, jobs, populations, etc. based on the vision laid out in a plan.

Lucy Thompson, PED staff, said that the *West Side Flats Master Plan* does project the number of future housing units based on zoning, block size, land use, etc., but that no market values have been assigned to these numbers since it is hard to predict how the market will behave in an area that is just beginning to revitalize.

Commissioner DeJoy asked if Mr. Wells' testimony is on behalf of the board of directors of WSCO.

Mr. Wells said yes.

Commissioner DeJoy said what she heard is that current industry is encouraged to continue operation forever, and that the WSCO Board would support this.

Mr. Wells confirmed that that is correct, and believes that the Plan states this as well. WSCO is very supportive of business on the Flats; it is important for the community and for Saint Paul as whole. Business development is also supported in the West Side Community Plan. WSCO also believes the street grid is an important component of the industrial district. Written comments were received from WSCO.

20. Tim Griffin, Director of the Saint Paul Design Center at the Saint Paul Riverfront Corporation. They support the *West Side Flats Master Plan* because it lays out the right vision for realizing the potential of this amazing area on the Mississippi riverfront, and reconnecting it to the river and West Side. The West Side Flats was one of the three strategic investment areas identified in the Saint Paul on the Mississippi Development Framework in 1997.

    Commissioner Connolly asked if there is a "back up plan" if the proposed park on the Rexam site is removed from the Plan.

    Mr. Griffin replied no. A key principle is a "park in the heart" of that area, which should be upheld if alternative locations are considered.

21. Hokan Miller, board member at Neighborhood Development Alliance and Friends of the Mississippi River, also serves on the WSCO Riverfront, Development and Land Use Committee. Mr. Miller appreciates the open, inclusive process conducted by the West Side Flats Task Force and City Planning staff; we should be proud of their efforts, professionalism and the planning product they have crafted. He supports the *West Side Flats Master Plan*, and he hopes it will be adopted as is. He has travelled the Mississippi, and there is not another geographic expression akin to the central riverfront where the narrow river widens out into a broad floodplain. That geographical setting is the basis for the building height recommendations.

22. Gjerry Berquist, West Side resident. He thanked the Rexam employees for expressing their concerns. However, Mr. Berquist does not believe there is anything in this plan that is threatening to Rexam, and he hopes the company is there for the next 100 years. He stated that we have spent over an hour here talking about the potential of something that is not going to happen. There does not seem to be anybody who wants Rexam to disappear. He supports, without reservations, the Plan as forwarded to the Planning Commission.

23. Eric Dueholm, part owner of three properties in the study area. His buildings have about 20 companies in them. Two of the three buildings have roads proposed to go through them. He recently put a new roof on one of the buildings, which cost about $500,000.

24. Hugh Cullen, owner of Strategic Warehousing. They have over 40 employees and have partnered with Rexam for over for 20 years. He is here to support Rexam. As a real estate owner in the area, he has concerns about the Plan. He hopes that another look will be taken at how the streets are drawn and the impact it has on good companies. Mr. Cullen agrees with the Port and Chamber. He is concerned that the Plan creates confusion and uncertainty.

25. Mickey Webbe, West Side resident for 67 years and retired Rexam employee. The West Side is a good job location, with good wages and lower taxes.

    Commissioner Connolly said whether Rexam could supply the residential addresses of Rexam employees.

    Mr. Webbe said he cannot see why it makes any difference where employees live; it is where they work that they are paying their taxes from. Rexam pays a great deal of taxes.

26. Mike Lenahan, owner of a building at 124 Eva Street. In studying the layout of the proposed streets, at least seven buildings will be impacted, and his building is one of them. He pays approximately $20,000 a year in taxes, and he is very concerned.

    Commissioner Ochs asked how many meetings he has attended regarding the West Side Flats.

    Mr. Lenahan replied that the only one he attended was at Wellstone Center on proposed rezonings.

    Commissioner Ochs asked what Mr. Lenahan's definition of plan, Comprehensive Plan, Master Plan is – i.e. whether it means that everything will follow to the letter without any changes.

    Mr. Lenahan said, personally, yes. Otherwise he would not make a plan that he could not see through to fruition.

27. Mike Cloud, Plant Engineer at Rexam. He stated that businesses were unaware of the Plan, so he urges more advertisement and more communication. Rexam is an inter-generational business, so they have employees who intend to be working for the next 35-40 years. He stated that it is hard to plan for the future when there are roads proposed right through your building. He stated that he is against Phase IV.

MOTION: ***Commissioner McMahon moved to close the public hearing, leave the record open for written testimony until 4:30 p.m. on Monday, February 2, 2015, and to refer the matter back to the Neighborhood Planning Committee for review and recommendation. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.***

Submit written comments to: sonja.butler@ci.stpaul.mn.us

V. Zoning Committee

SITE PLAN REVIEW – List of current applications. *(Tom Beach, 651/266-9086)*

One item to come before the Site Plan Review Committee on Tuesday, February 3, 2015:

- HealthEast Rice Street Clinic, 4,500 square foot addition to existing medical clinic at 980 Rice Street.

One item to come before the Site Plan Review Committee on Tuesday, February 10, 2015:

- Fire Station #19, addition to existing fire station and parking lot at 2530 Edgcumbe Road (at Saint Paul Avenue)

NEW BUSINESS

#14-354-654 Nicholas Davis – Establishment of legal nonconforming status of a third dwelling unit on the lot. 1393-1395 Breda Avenue between Albert and Hamline.
(Josh Williams, 651/266-6659)

MOTION: ***Commissioner Nelson moved the Zoning Committee's recommendation to approve the establishment of legal nonconforming status subject to additional conditions. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.***

Commissioner Nelson announced the items on the agenda for the next ZC meeting Feb. 5, 2015.

VI. Comprehensive Planning Committee

Cellular Telephone Antennas Zoning Study – Initiate a zoning study, release draft zoning code amendments for public review, and set a public hearing date. *(Bill Dermody, 651/266-6617)*

Commissioner Thao announced that the committee is recommending a resolution to initiate a zoning study about cellular telephone antennas. This is in direct response to some rules regarding local government regulations of cell phone, telephone antennas. The study is being initiated in response to this new federal guideline change. Also, the committee recommends approval to set a public hearing on March 13, 2015.

MOTION: ***Commissioner Thao moved the Comprehensive Planning Committee's recommendation to approve the resolution initiating a zoning study and to release the draft for public review and set a public hearing on March 13, 2015. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.***

VII. Neighborhood Planning Committee

Neighborhood Planning Committee will meet on Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at 3:30 p.m. with three items on the agenda.

VIII. Transportation Committee

Commissioner Lindeke announced the items on the agenda for the next Transportation Committee meeting Monday, February 9, 2015.

IX. Communications Committee

2014 Planning Commission Annual Report

Commissioner Thao announced that the 2014 Planning Commission Annual Report has been completed. It list all of the completed and ongoing projects that commission and staff worked on throughout 2014 as well as a report on the number of different types of zoning applications that come before the Planning Commission throughout the year. She thanked the Communication Committee members and staff for drafting the report.

Planning Director's report on 2014 achievements and 2015 projects

Donna Drummond, Planning Director, briefly discussed 2014 achievements, which are highlighted in the annual report, and major projects coming up for 2015.

X. Task Force/Liaison Reports

Commissioner Makarios reported that the Ford Task Force had a community meeting last night. It was a great opportunity to hear from city leaders, staff and energy consultants. There was good dialogue and lots of community members in attendance. The task force will continue to meet through the spring and summer. Their model will be task force work sessions, with public meetings in between. The next task force session is scheduled for Monday, February 9th with the next public meeting tentatively scheduled for February 26th. It will focus on parks and open space. Subsequent meetings will focus on topics such as stormwater, transportation, bike paths and transit and then move into discussions about zoning.

XI. Old Business

None.

XII. New Business

None.

XIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Recorded and prepared by
Sonja Butler, Planning Commission Secretary
Planning and Economic Development Department,
City of Saint Paul

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Drummond
Planning Director

Approved March 13, 2015
(Date)

Daniel Ward II
Secretary of the Planning Commission

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