

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE OWOSSO PLANNING COMMISSION
Council Chambers, City Hall
June 23, 2014 – 7:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman William Wascher.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

ROLL CALL: Roll Call was taken by Recording Secretary Marty Stinson.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman William Wascher, Vice-Chairman Frank Livingston, Secretary Tom Kurtz, Commissioners Mike O’Leary, Thomas Taylor, and Craig Weaver .

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioners David Bandkau, Brent Smith, and Randy Woodworth.

OTHERS PRESENT: Susan Montenegro, Assistant City Manager and Director of Community Development; Mary Shi, Cook Foundation Owosso Fellow and Yale University graduate.

AGENDA APPROVAL:
MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LIVINGSTON, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER WEAVER TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR JUNE 23, 2014.
YEAS ALL. MOTION CARRIED.

MINUTES APPROVAL:
MOTION BY COMMISSIONER KURTZ, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER LIVINGSTON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 27.
YEAS ALL. MOTION CARRIED.

- COMMUNICATIONS:**
1. Staff memorandum
 2. PC minutes from May 27, 2014
 3. Safe Routes 2 School (SR2S Mini Packet)

COMMISSIONER / PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

PUBLIC HEARING: NONE

SITE PLAN REVIEW: NONE

BUSINESS ITEMS: NONE

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION: SAFE ROUTES 2 SCHOOL

Ms. Susan Montenegro, Assistant City Manager and Director of Community Development, introduced Ms. Mary Shi, a Cook Foundation Owosso Fellow and a graduate from Yale University. She explained the concepts of the Safe Routes 2 School program which is a federal program administered by MDOT and has the potential to bring in up to \$200,000 for infrastructure projects for each of five schools and \$8,000 for non-infrastructure projects for each school. The application process takes about one year and then the rest of the project can take about three to four years. There is no deadline – just until the federal money runs out.

Ms. Montenegro would like the Planning Commission to be involved with looking into the sidewalk planning, etc.

Commissioner O'Leary noted that it is a state law that there is to be no sidewalk bike riding in residential or downtown areas. The city just doesn't enforce it in residential areas.

Ms. Montenegro commented that will have to address / promote this as a safe town to get parental buy-in

- by:
1. Sending out flyers.
 2. Making a safe environment.
 3. Parents walking with groups of children.
 4. Doing surveys to pinpoint parents' concerns.
 5. Creating remote drop off sites to alleviate congestion at school entrances.

She continued by saying that the schools are very interested in the project. Commissioner O'Leary questioned the results when the money ends. It was noted that this is a one-time deal. This is not to have reoccurring expenses.

The Commission responded positively to the presentation and is willing to assist with the program. Commissioner Kurtz also suggested that alleys be marked on the sidewalks in some manner as he and his wife were almost hit one time on the sidewalk by someone speeding from an alley.

COMMISSIONER / PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chairman Wascher asked when the East Main Street rezoning was going to the Council. Ms. Montenegro replied in July. Commissioner Taylor commented that he just got his notice in today's mail.

Ms. Montenegro said that the Wireless Tower ordinance has gone to the city attorney for review, and then she will e-mail it to the board members. Then it goes to the Council in July.

Commissioner Kurtz mentioned that the Commission should start working on the M-71 rezoning next.

ADJOURNMENT:

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER KURTZ, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, TO ADJOURN AT 7:43 P.M.
YEAS ALL. MOTION CARRIED.**

Tom Kurtz, Secretary

mms