

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION  
Austin, Texas

Special Meeting -- July 8, 1960

The meeting of the Commission was called to order at 7:50 p.m. in the ranch home of Mr. David B. Barrow.

Present

David B. Barrow, Chairman  
Doyle M. Baldridge  
Fred C. Barkley  
Howard E. Brunson  
S. P. Kinser  
W. Sale Lewis  
Emil Spillmann

Absent

Carl A. Johnson

Also Present

Hoyle M. Osborne, Director of Planning  
E. N. Stevens, Chief, Plan Administration  
Dudley Fowler, Assistant City Attorney

At the request of Mr. Kinser, Mr. Barrow left the meeting and Mr. Kinser as Vice-Chairman presided. He welcomed the new members and said the Planning Commission felt a responsibility to help them get started in the work before the Commission which he felt was one of the most important advisory groups in the City government. Mr. Kinser noted that the prestige and reputation of the Commission with the City Council and general public has increased more than is realized under the leadership of Mr. Barrow as chairman and he suggested that the offices of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary be vacated and new officers elected since the Commission now has two new members. The Commission then unanimously

VOTED: To vacate the offices of the Commission.

Several members then expressed their pleasure in serving with Mr. Barrow and their respect and honor for him, his abilities, and his clean thoughts and ideas in working for the good of the City and citizens. It was then unanimously

VOTED: To elect Mr. David B. Barrow as Chairman, to express a vote of confidence in all of his past actions and to pledge cooperation with him in the future in any position of mutual benefit to the Planning Commission.

Mr. Barrow was then called back to the meeting to preside as chairman and for the election of other officers.

Mr. Brunson made a motion that Mr. Kinser be re-elected as Vice-Chairman on the basis of his past action and his being a man of trust and right-doing. It was then

VOTED: To elect Mr. S. P. Kinser as Vice-Chairman.

PRESENT BUT NOT VOTING: Mr. Kinser

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Mr. Kinser then made a motion to nominate Mr. Lewis as Secretary since it is his duty to sign all subdivision plats and he is available and convenient to the Planning Department and has served well in this capacity. It was then

VOTED: To elect Mr. W. Sale Lewis as Secretary.

PRESENT BUT NOT VOTING: Mr. Lewis

Mr. Barrow explained that the Commission in the past had discussed the problems and matters referred to it for consideration and had tried to agree and compromise on all decisions, but there were some instances where a unanimous agreement could not be reached. He said there was a need to appoint committees so that they can function before the next Planning Commission meeting, and he would do that in the near future. He explained that this will include the Zoning and Subdivision Committees and that there is an Executive Committee composed of the Chairman and also the Chairman of the other two committees.

Mr. Barrow explained the general work of the Commission and stated that some of the things the Commission has done in the past few years have been of great benefit to the city. He noted that this is a fine city with a great future, having good traffic circulation and natural beauty which he thought is a part of planning in making it an attractive place to live. He said the Capital Improvements Program is extremely important to the City and the City Charter provides that the Commission will have a part in planning the Program. He explained that the City Manager has consulted with the Commission in this Program.

Mr. Barrow made a further brief report to the Planning Commission, particularly for the benefit of the new members, which included:

Progress made toward sound zoning

Recommendations to the City Council on the downtown lake

Development Plan status (the Plan with recommendations from the Commission was submitted to the Council some time ago, but is still pending with the Council)

Balcones Trail grade separation at Burnet Road intersection

Anderson Lane grade separation at Interregional Highway

Missouri-Pacific Boulevard

Location of new Post Office-Federal Building.

A general discussion was held on the Development Plan. Mr. Barrow said some people object to the plan because they think it puts the City in the position of literally following the plan, while no one can plan for Austin for 25 years without a plan that can be reviewed and changed with changing conditions. The Director felt that it is important to have a formal document adopted by the

City Council which would be a guide to future locations of thoroughfares, among other things, and noted that there has been a highway planned through the University Hills Subdivision without knowledge that there is a subdivision here. Mr. Barrow and the other members agreed with the Director that a formal plan should be adopted. Mr. Lewis reported that he is a member of the Industrial Committee of the Chamber of Commerce which has done a tremendous amount of work on industrial development in the city. He said this Committee will have a meeting next Tuesday evening to discuss industrial parks and it might be advisable for members of the Planning Commission to attend.

Mr. Lewis mentioned the proposed bond issue which the Commission had approved in toto, including the issuance of the bonds and the projects included. He said the Commission understood that neither the tax rate nor the valuation of property would be increased and the Mayor had stated that there would be no increase in the interest and sinking fund insofar as the bonds themselves are concerned. He noted that the School Board is proposing to increase the tax rate and thought it should be made clear that the City collects the school taxes only according to contract with the School Board and this would not affect the bond issue.

It was reported that the construction of the Missouri-Pacific Boulevard had not been brought forward as was previously recommended by the Commission and Mr. Barrow said he felt that this Boulevard is really needed in the northwest section of the City now more than in the downtown area where it is first proposed to be constructed. He reported that the Commission, in recommending on the bond issue program, had again recommended that the starting date be advanced. The Director noted that one problem is that the present bond issue program does not include sufficient money for completing this project.

Mr. Barrow reported that proposed thoroughfares were set out in the Thoroughfare Plan and one aspect of the Plan is to decide ahead of time if we need these thoroughfares; this is the purpose of planning so that it will save money for the City and see that the program is carried out in the right manner.

Mr. Fowler suggested that a concerted effort be made by the Commission to interest the School Board and the Austin Independent School District in seeking the advice of the Commission in locating sites for new schools before they purchase a site since there are times when the City is forced to build new roads or widen existing roads at the expense of the City and abutting property owners in order to provide access to the schools. Mr. Barrow reported that the Commission has contacted the School Board several times and they have promised cooperation. The Commission then

VOTED: To authorize the Chairman to notify in writing the proper official to inform him of the Commission's interest in this matter and to request the School Board to work with the Commission in the selection and location of new schools.

Another matter of importance was noted by Mr. Barrow in the amount of vacant land in the City which affects the City's finances and utility services. He felt that a committee should be set up to study this problem.

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The new members expressed appreciation for the background in planning given them. Mr. Osborne stated that the members will have questions asked with which they are not directly familiar and that the Department is available at all times to advise or find information relative to the questions. Mr. Lewis stated that the Planning Department is very capable and will cooperate with the Commission.

The Director explained that the Planning Commission members have been inspecting the sites of proposed zoning changes on Tuesday afternoon before the Zoning Committee meeting. Some members felt that Friday previous to that day would be more suitable and would give more time for inspection. It was then

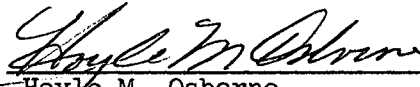
AGREED: To schedule a field inspection trip for Friday, July 15, 1960, on a trial basis.

Members expressed their pleasure in the dinner which preceeded the meeting at which the wives of members were also in attendance, and it was unanimously

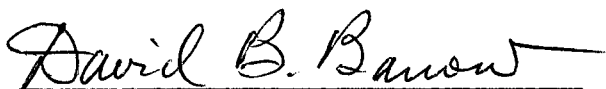
VOTED: To extend a vote of thanks to Mrs. Barrow for her fine food and hospitality.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

  
Hoyle M. Osborne  
Executive Secretary

APPROVED:

  
Chairman