

★ **Roll Call Number**

Agenda Item Number

18

.....
October 8, 2007

Date

WHEREAS, the City Plan and Zoning Commission has advised in the attached letter that at a public hearing held September 20, 2007, the members voted 12-0 in support of a motion to recommend approval of the Executive Summary component of the Downtown Plan and continuation of the planning effort.

MOVED by _____ to receive and file.

FORM APPROVED:

Roger K. Brown
Assistant City Attorney

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE				
COLEMAN				
HENSLEY				
KIERNAN				
MAHAFFEY				
MEYER				
VLASSIS				
TOTAL				

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

_____ Mayor

CERTIFICATE

I, DIANE RAUH, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

_____ City Clerk

Date _____

Agenda Item 18

Roll Call # _____

October 8, 2007

Honorable Mayor and City Council
City of Des Moines, Iowa

Members:

Communication from the City Plan and Zoning Commission advising that at their meeting held September 20, 2007, the following action was taken:

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:

After public hearing, the members voted 12-0 as follows:

Commission Action:	Yes	Nays	Pass	Absent
David Cupp	X			
Shirley Daniels				X
Dann Flaherty	X			
Bruce Heilman	X			
Jeffrey Johannsen				X
Greg Jones	X			
Frances Koontz				X
Kaye Lozier	X			
Jim Martin	X			
Brian Millard	X			
Brook Rosenberg	X			
Mike Simonson	X			
Kent Sovern	X			
Tim Urban	X			
Marc Wallace	X			

APPROVAL of the Executive Summary component of the Downtown Plan and continuation of the planning effort.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION AND BASIS FOR APPROVAL

Staff recommends the Commission forward a communication to the City Council recommending approval of the executive summary component of the plan and recommending continuation of the planning effort.

STAFF REPORT

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

On August 6, 2007, by Roll Call #07-1474, the City Council received and filed the Draft Executive Summary component of the Downtown Plan and referred it to the Plan & Zoning Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission and the Urban Design Review Board for comment.



CITY PLAN AND ZONING COMMISSION
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ALL-AMERICA CITY
1949, 1976, 1981
2003

II. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A special joint meeting of the Des Moines City Council and Polk County Supervisors was held on Monday, August 6, 2007 to receive recommendations from the Downtown Steering Committee and project consultants.

Priorities emerging from the plan focus on several key new initiatives based on the idea that movement is crucial in providing connecting elements that link the significant activity areas in the downtown:

1. Walnut St. Transformation: Use Walnut Street from the State Capitol complex to its 15th St. terminus as the "spine" to connect places in downtown and create a lively urban environment. Physical projects such as transit (a shuttle evolving into a tramway and mass transit transfer point), enhanced skywalk/sidewalk connections, bike lanes, retail, identification of major north-south routes, as well as changes in private and public parking policies are key components of this initiative. Walnut Street was chosen as the "spine" based on the location of current major activity nodes and potential future major development sites.
2. 'Skywalks and Sidewalks': Create new strategic connections through expansion of the current skywalk system, refreshing existing corridors and bridges, building visible and inviting vertical access points between the skywalk and sidewalk levels, and improving the street level experience through sidewalk widening, streetscapes, ground level development and other pedestrian elements.
3. 'Greening Downtown': Enhance the current "greening" of downtown with creation of an integrated trail and urban bike lane system with a network of bicycle amenities, provide a unified system for showcasing the unique collection of downtown public art and a network of parks to serve the emerging residential areas as well as the downtown workforce and regional visitors.

In addition to these new projects, the consultants strongly recommend continued focus on the Riverwalk, SE Connector/MLK Parkway, Riverpoint West/Gray's Landing, Gateway Park and downtown housing as major on-going projects.

Finally, the consultants recommend updating zoning and guidelines, targeting market initiatives for housing and retail, and providing detailed planning for emerging areas.

To assist in gathering information, a number of public and stakeholder meetings have been held in the past year. The Downtown Steering Committee, led by Mayor Cownie, has provided guidance to the consultants in its review of this plan and has endorsed the presentation of the plan. This Committee is composed of representatives of the City, Polk County, the Downtown Community Alliance, downtown residents and businesses.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

There was no one to speak on this item and there was no discussion.

Kaye Lozier: Moved for approval of the staff recommendation.

Motion passed 12-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Ludwig'.

Michael Ludwig, AICP
Planning Administrator

MGL:dfa

Attachment