Potential Study Issues – AM

Trudi Ryan, Planning Officer, indicated that this is an opportunity for the Commission to propose potential study issues for the 2011 year and that a vote of four or more is required for any additional potential study issues. She said, at the Planning Commission meeting of August 23, 2010, there was discussion about a potential study issue related to telecommunications. She said staff has provided a summary of information on previously proposed telecommunication studies. Ms. Ryan said that the Planning Commission has purview over the aesthetics of telecommunication projects.

Vice Chair Hendricks confirmed with staff that currently there is no map for cell towers on the website, suggesting that he would like to see one added. Ms. Ryan said she could take the suggestion under advisement however the website is limited on space.

Comm. Dohadwala commented that her reason for wanting a telecommunication study issue is that it is difficult to make decisions with the information she has. She discussed with staff boundaries, whether benefit to the neighbors could be considered, concerns about radio frequency emissions, and said she does not want the City to become cluttered with towers.

Vice Chair Hendricks commented that a telecommunication issue is not a high priority issue for him and made a suggestion to look at past potential issues to structure the wording of a potential study issue.

Chair Travis confirmed with staff that CDD 09-08 from 2010 is still a live issue and that edits could be made to the language.

Ms. Ryan noted that she must have all the potential study issue papers prepared by October 1, 2010.

Comm. Sulser said he has some interest in unconsolidating CDD 09-08 with Ms. Ryan saying that he could propose an individual study to see if there is interest in uncombining the issue to make it more manageable time-wise.

Comm. Dohadwala discussed with staff property size limitations and setbacks for monopines with staff saying there is no standard for the size of property that a tower is on.
Comm. Sulser made a motion to separate CDD 09-08 into the three original separate study issues with Comm. Hungerford clarifying what those issues were. The motion died for lack of a second.

Vice Chair Hendricks discussed with staff whether it is a problem proposing many study issues. Ms. Ryan said it is better for staff to not have to do many study issue papers, as staff usually can only do about five study issues a year. Ms. Ryan said a complete list of the current potential issues will be provided at the Planning Commission meeting of September 27, 2010 and that currently there may be 10 or 11 issues proposed.

Comm. Hungerford said he likes the third piece of CDD 09-08 and moved to propose a study issue regarding design guidelines for free standing cell phone towers with an emphasis on residential areas. Comm. Dohadwala seconded the motion.

Comm. Hungerford said there are not a lot of guidelines for telecommunication sites, except for what we have done in the past. He said hopefully design guidelines would provide more concrete guidance to both the applicants and the City.

Comm. Dohadwala thanked Comm. Hungerford for simplifying her questions in the wording of the motion. She said she thinks dealing with this portion of the issue will take less study time for staff.

Vice Chair Hendricks clarified with staff that CDD 09-08 still exists and would not be replaced with this motion as the Council ranked it last year. Ms. Ryan said she would determine how this would be presented acknowledging both study issues.

ACTION: Comm. Hungerford made a motion to propose a study issue regarding design guidelines for free standing cell phone towers with an emphasis on cell phone towers in residential areas. Comm. Dohadwala seconded. Motion carried 6-1, with Vice Chair Hendricks dissenting.