

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
CITY OF WILLMAR, MINNESOTA
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2012**

MINUTES

The Community Development Committee of the Willmar City Council met on Thursday, November 1, 2012, in Conference Room No.1 at the City Office Building. Chair Dokken called the meeting to order at 4:45pm.

Present:

Jim Dokken	Chair
Ron Christianson	Council Member
Bruce DeBlieck	Council Member
Bruce Peterson	Director of Planning and Development Services

Others present: Dr. Jerry Kjergaard – Superintendent of Willmar Public Schools, Tim Johnson – Council Member.

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

There were no public comments offered at this meeting.

2. LINCOLN/GARFIELD SCHOOLS (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jerry Kjergaard was present to update the Committee on the status of Lincoln and Garfield Schools. A closing date of November 16th has been set for the sale of Lincoln School. It is being sold to a group who intends to use it as a church. Staff noted that the change in use will require zoning approvals. Dr. Kjergaard said a tract of land remaining east of the sale parcel could be available to the City to link 9th Street Southeast and to expand the park land to the east.

Dr. Kjergaard concluded by saying that the School District plans to maintain Garfield School as the home of the Alternative Learning Center, and there are no changes anticipated for that building in the near future.

3. DOWNTOWN PLANNING UPDATE (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

Staff presented an update on a recent meeting to discuss progress on Downtown Plan goals. The following issues were discussed at the meeting: parking study, Robbins Island-to-Downtown Trail, gateways, Central Business District zoning boundary expansion, and Central Business District design standards. The Committee raised questions about downtown development and public funding of projects.

4. MISCELLANY (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

The Committee discussed the following: status of Goodwill and Mills Auto projects, status of the airport land release, and future use of the local option sales tax to fund infrastructure.

5. There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 5:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Peterson", written over a horizontal line.

Bruce Peterson, AICP
Director of Planning and Development Services