



office memorandum

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: Susan Owen Atkinson, Neighborhood Planner

DATE: June 8, 2012

RE: Agenda Item—Resolution R-1112-131 to Consider Adoption of the Original Townsite Neighborhood Plan

BACKGROUND: The *Norman 2025 Land Use and Transportation Plan* adopted in 2004 recommended the establishment of a neighborhood planning program with a dedicated City staff member to manage the process. The program would be designed to “engage neighborhoods in Norman’s Core Area in a participatory planning process to directly address such issues as land use compatibility, parking, circulation, and neighborhood improvements.” The *2025 Plan* also recommended that “the Planning Commission and City Council would adopt each of the neighborhood plans as an element of the City’s Comprehensive Plan.” The City Council adopted its first two neighborhood plans under this new program in 2007.

DISCUSSION: Original Townsite Neighborhood is one of Norman’s Core Area neighborhoods as defined by the boundaries of the Core Area. The neighborhood itself is bounded on the north by Main Street, on the east by Reed extended, on the south by Alameda Street and on the west by Porter Avenue.

The plan was initiated in 2007 as an update and expansion of a plan for all of Norman’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) neighborhoods written in 1990. Neighborhood meetings during which the contents of this plan were developed were held in 2007, 2008, and 2011 with infrastructure surveys completed in 2012.

The Original Townsite Neighborhood Plan is the City’s sixth neighborhood plan to be considered for adoption. Original Townsite Neighborhood Plan does not modify any underlying land use adopted by the *Norman 2025 Land Use and Transportation Plan*. The neighborhood plan is a policy document that is intended to help protect the neighborhood’s assets and effectively reverse negative trends in the area.

The guiding principle of the Original Townsite Neighborhood Plan is "strengthen what we have." This principle is articulated by six long-term goals followed by a variety of specific recommendations. Many of these recommendations will be implemented by neighborhood residents themselves; some by City staff, and some by a partnership of City staff working alongside neighborhood residents.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Planning Commission recommend adoption of the *Original Townsite Neighborhood Plan*.