

**NORMAN PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**

SEPTEMBER 12, 2013

The Planning Commission of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in Regular Session in the Council Chambers of the Norman Municipal Building, 201 West Gray Street, on the 12th day of September 2013. Notice and agenda of the meeting were posted at the Norman Municipal Building and online at <http://www.normanok.gov/content/boards-commissions> at least twenty-four hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

Vice Chairman Tom Knotts called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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Item No. 1, being:

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Curtis McCarty
Jim Gasaway
Roberta Pailes
Andy Sherrer
Cindy Gordon
Dave Boeck
Sandy Bahan
Tom Knotts

MEMBERS ABSENT

Chris Lewis

A quorum was present.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Susan Connors, Director, Planning &
Community Development
Jane Hudson, Principal Planner
Janay Greenlee, Planner II
Todd McLellan, Development Engineer
David Riesland, Traffic Engineer
Roné Tromble, Recording Secretary
Leah Messner, Asst. City Attorney
Larry Knapp, GIS Analyst II
Terry Floyd, Development Coordinator

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Item No. 7, being:

O-1314-11 – THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA REQUEST CLOSURE OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF FARMER STREET LYING BETWEEN JENKINS AVENUE AND LINCOLN AVENUE BETWEEN BLOCKS 1 AND 8, HARDIE-RUCKER ADDITION.

ITEMS SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD:

1. Location Map
2. Site Plan
3. Staff Report
4. Petition to Close part of Farmer Street between Jenkins Avenue and Lincoln Avenue

PRESENTATION BY THE APPLICANT:

1. Harold Heiple, 218 E. Eufaula – We want to close that one block of Farmer Street. All of the stuff lying north of it, colored orange and yellow, doesn't exist any more. It's one great big huge beautiful brick residence for the University, and this street is immediately on the south side. If you look at the top of that drawing, the outline of the building is there. Right below the building to the south is a circular sidewalk. It is a wide sidewalk and will accommodate both pedestrians and bicycles under University policy, not only for the people that live in the residence, but people that live over on Lincoln and want to come through to Jenkins Street. If you come on down on the left side of that drawing, you'll see a driveway, which is a considerable distance from where that sidewalk is. And if you compare the size of the building, you get an idea what's going to happen south of the sidewalk and down to that curb cut is a passive park – no concrete and just landscaping, trees, and a good restful area. The general concept is that whole area is going to look like this. Now the curved sidewalk is at the top and all the area below the sidewalk down to the existing parking lot will be landscaping. There are no filed protests. There are two utilities in the area that we understand and, of course, by law we are required to both respect and protect those; we will give separate easements for those to OG&E and to the City for their utilities. As I say, no protests and we would respectfully ask you to recommend to the City Council that they approve closing this, because once that has happened, if it happens, we will then go to District Court to vacate it so that it will be permanently closed. Any questions?

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

1. Warren Prickett, 1404 Garfield Avenue – I've lived there my entire life. It's a block over from where they're talking about. I've talked to every neighbor in my addition and there is not one person in my addition that wants the closing of this street, except for OU. It's the only access we have to get out to Jenkins after their latest construction on Lindsey Street. We have Lindsey to get out and now Stinson, which they recently put a traffic light which was needed and – I'm glad that the traffic light is there at Stinson. But with all the new building and all the apartments behind there, Stinson Street is the main thoroughfare to get out for Jenkins. If they block Farmer, it already backs up from Stinson to Lindsey during rush hour and it is bumper to bumper all the way down Jenkins from Lindsey to Stinson because of the new light – the traffic already there. We've had six years of construction in that neighborhood now, with the two years of the parking lot, the two years of the Lindsey Street construction, and now the two years of the new dorm. Nobody wants that street closed except OU and in April a surveyor told me when he was transit looking through and I asked him what's going on. He said we're getting rid of this street; Molly wants more green space. And that was in April. So I figure this is probably already a done deal, but I felt like I needed to speak about it. Thank you.

2. Harold Heiple – I'm not trying to be frivolous, and I certainly respect what the man said and his reasons for saying it. But I would say that the people that would like to have it closed are the several hundreds, if not thousands, of University students that will be walking out of that south door of Heddington and crossing that particular area every day. So it's not going to be the same Farmer Street – it wouldn't be if it stayed open, and that's one reason we want it closed is

to actually protect that pedestrian traffic. So I appreciate what is being said, but as has also been pointed out there are now traffic lights at both Lindsey and at Stinson. Thank you.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION:

Andy Sherrer moved to recommend adoption of Ordinance No. O-1314-11 to City Council. Sandy Bahan seconded the motion.

There being no further discussion, a vote on the motion was taken with the following result:

YEAS	Curtis McCarty, Jim Gasaway, Roberta Pailles, Andy Sherrer, Cindy Gordon, Dave Boeck, Sandy Bahan, Tom Knotts
NAYS	None
ABSENT	Chris Lewis

Ms. Tromble announced that the motion, to recommend adoption of Ordinance No. O-1314-11 to City Council, passed by a vote of 8-0.

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