

Planning Commission
Monday, December 9, 2024 6:00 PM
Columbus Community Building/Community Room
2500 14 Street
Columbus, NE 68601

The Mayor and City Council reserve the right to go into closed session as per Section 84-1410 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes. A current agenda is on file at City Hall, 2500 14 Street, Columbus, Nebraska. For more information, call 402-562-4224 or visit our website at www.columbusne.us.

{{Name: Agenda Item Name}}

- 1. Statement of Compliance with Open Meetings Act and roll call.**

84-1407. Act, how cited.

Sections 84-1407 to 84-1414 shall be known and may be cited as the Open Meetings Act.

Source: Laws 2004, LB 821, § 34.

84-1408. Declaration of intent; meetings open to public.

It is hereby declared to be the policy of this state that the formation of public policy is public business and may not be conducted in secret.

Every meeting of a public body shall be open to the public in order that citizens may exercise their democratic privilege of attending and speaking at meetings of public bodies, except as otherwise provided by the Constitution of Nebraska, federal statutes, and the Open Meetings Act.

Source: Laws 1975, LB 325, § 1; Laws 1996, LB 900, § 1071; Laws 2004, LB 821, § 35.

Annotations

- Nebraska's public meetings laws do not apply to school board deliberations pertaining solely to disputed adjudicative facts. *McQuinn v. Douglas Cty. Sch. Dist. No. 66*, 259 Neb. 720, 612 N.W.2d 198 (2000).
- The primary purpose of the public meetings law is to ensure that public policy is formulated at open meetings. *Marks v. Judicial Nominating Comm.*, 236 Neb. 429, 461 N.W.2d 551 (1990).
- The public meetings law is broadly interpreted and liberally construed to obtain the objective of openness in favor of the public, and provisions permitting closed sessions must be narrowly and strictly construed. *Grein v. Board of Education of Fremont*, 216 Neb. 158, 343 N.W.2d 718 (1984).
- Although a committee was a subcommittee of a natural resources district board, it was not subject to the Open Meetings Act because there was never a quorum of board members in attendance and the committee did not hold hearings, make policy, or take formal action on behalf of the board. *Koch v. Lower Loup NRD*, 27 Neb. App. 301, 931 N.W.2d 160 (2019).
- A county board of equalization is a public body whose meetings shall be open to the public. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (2009).

84-1409. Terms, defined.

For purposes of the Open Meetings Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1)(a) Public body means (i) governing bodies of all political subdivisions of the State of Nebraska, (ii) governing bodies of all agencies, created by the Constitution of Nebraska, statute, or otherwise pursuant to law, of the executive department of the State of Nebraska, (iii) all independent boards, commissions, bureaus, committees, councils, subunits, or any other bodies created by the Constitution of Nebraska, statute, or otherwise pursuant to law, (iv) all study or advisory committees of the executive department of the State of Nebraska whether having continuing existence or appointed as special committees with limited existence, (v) advisory committees of the bodies referred to in subdivisions (i), (ii), and (iii) of this subdivision, and (vi) instrumentalities exercising essentially public functions; and

(b) Public body does not include (i) subcommittees of such bodies unless a quorum of the public body attends a subcommittee meeting or unless such subcommittees are holding hearings, making policy, or taking formal action on behalf of their parent body, except that all meetings of any subcommittee established under section 81-15,175 are subject to the Open Meetings Act, (ii) entities conducting judicial proceedings unless a court or other judicial body is exercising rulemaking authority, deliberating, or deciding upon the issuance of administrative orders, and (iii) the Judicial Resources Commission or subcommittees or subgroups of the commission;

(2) Meeting means all regular, special, or called meetings, formal or informal, of any public body for the purposes of briefing, discussion of public business, formation of tentative policy, or the taking of any action of the public body; and

(3) Virtual conferencing means conducting or participating in a meeting electronically or telephonically with interaction among the participants subject to subsection (2) of section 84-1412.

Source: Laws 1975, LB 325, § 2; Laws 1983, LB 43, § 1; Laws 1989, LB 429, § 42; Laws 1989, LB 311, § 14; Laws 1992, LB 1019, § 124; Laws 1993, LB 635, § 1; Laws 1996, LB 1044, § 978; Laws 1997, LB 798, § 37; Laws 2004, LB 821, § 36; Laws 2007, LB296, § 810; Laws 2011, LB366, § 2; Laws 2021, LB83, § 11; Laws 2022, LB922, § 12.

Annotations

- A township is a political subdivision, and as such, a township board is subject to the provisions of the public meetings laws. *Steenblock v. Elkhorn Township Bd.*, 245 Neb. 722, 515 N.W.2d 128 (1994).
- A county agricultural society is a public body to which the provisions of the Nebraska public meetings law are applicable. *Nixon v. Madison Co. Ag. Soc'y*, 217 Neb. 37, 348 N.W.2d 119 (1984).
- Failure by a public governing body, as defined under section 84-1409, R.R.S.1943, to take and record a roll call vote on an action, as required by section 84-1413(2), R.S.Supp.,1980, grants any citizen the right to sue for the purpose of having the action declared void. In this case such failure could not be later corrected by a nunc pro tunc order because there was no showing that a roll call vote on the disputed action was actually taken, and even if it was the record showed it was not recorded until over a year later. Sections 23-1301, R.R.S.1943, and 23-1302, R.R.S.1943, make it the duty of the county clerk to record proceedings of the board of county commissioners. *State ex rel. Schuler v. Dunbar*, 208 Neb. 69, 302 N.W.2d 674 (1981).
- Although a committee was a subcommittee of a natural resources district board, it was not subject to the Open Meetings Act because there was never a quorum of board members in attendance and the committee did not hold hearings, make policy, or take formal action on behalf of the board. *Koch v. Lower Loup NRD*, 27 Neb. App. 301, 931 N.W.2d 160 (2019).
- Although the Open Meetings Act does not define "subcommittee," a subcommittee is generally defined as a group within a committee to which the committee may refer business. *Koch v. Lower Loup NRD*, 27 Neb. App. 301, 931 N.W.2d 160 (2019).
- The Open Meetings Act does not require policymakers to remain ignorant of the issues they must decide until the moment the public is invited to comment on a proposed policy. By excluding nonquorum subgroups from the definition of a public body, the Legislature

has balanced the public's need to be heard on matters of public policy with a practical accommodation for a public body's need for information to conduct business. *Koch v. Lower Loup NRD*, 27 Neb. App. 301, 931 N.W.2d 160 (2019).

- As an administrative agency of the county, a county board of equalization is a public body. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (2009).
- The electors of a township at their annual meeting are a public body under the Open Meetings Act. *State ex rel. Newman v. Columbus Township Bd.*, 15 Neb. App. 656, 735 N.W.2d 399 (2007).
- The meeting at issue in this case was a "meeting" within the parameters of subsection (2) of this section because it involved the discussion of public business, the formation of tentative policy, or the taking of any action of the public power district. *Hansmeyer v. Nebraska Pub. Power Dist.*, 6 Neb. App. 889, 578 N.W.2d 476 (1998).
- Informational sessions in which the governmental body hears reports are briefings. *Johnson v. Nebraska Environmental Control Council*, 2 Neb. App. 263, 509 N.W.2d 21 (1993).

84-1410. Closed session; when; purpose; reasons listed; procedure; right to challenge; prohibited acts; chance meetings, conventions, or workshops.

(1) Any public body may hold a closed session by the affirmative vote of a majority of its voting members if a closed session is clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest or for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual and if such individual has not requested a public meeting. The subject matter and the reason necessitating the closed session shall be identified in the motion to close. Closed sessions may be held for, but shall not be limited to, such reasons as:

(a) Strategy sessions with respect to collective bargaining, real estate purchases, pending litigation, or litigation which is imminent as evidenced by communication of a claim or threat of litigation to or by the public body;

(b) Discussion regarding deployment of security personnel or devices;

(c) Investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct;

(d) Evaluation of the job performance of a person when necessary to prevent needless injury to the reputation of a person and if such person has not requested a public meeting;

(e) For the Community Trust created under section 81-1801.02, discussion regarding the amounts to be paid to individuals who have suffered from a tragedy of violence or natural disaster; or

(f) For public hospitals, governing board peer review activities, professional review activities, review and discussion of medical staff investigations or disciplinary actions, and any strategy session concerning transactional negotiations with any referral source that is required by federal law to be conducted at arms length.

Nothing in this section shall permit a closed meeting for discussion of the appointment or election of a new member to any public body.

(2) The vote to hold a closed session shall be taken in open session. The entire motion, the vote of each member on the question of holding a closed session, and the time when the closed session commenced and concluded shall be recorded in the minutes. If the motion to close

passes, then the presiding officer immediately prior to the closed session shall restate on the record the limitation of the subject matter of the closed session. The public body holding such a closed session shall restrict its consideration of matters during the closed portions to only those purposes set forth in the motion to close as the reason for the closed session. The meeting shall be reconvened in open session before any formal action may be taken. For purposes of this section, formal action shall mean a collective decision or a collective commitment or promise to make a decision on any question, motion, proposal, resolution, order, or ordinance or formation of a position or policy but shall not include negotiating guidance given by members of the public body to legal counsel or other negotiators in closed sessions authorized under subdivision (1)(a) of this section.

(3) Any member of any public body shall have the right to challenge the continuation of a closed session if the member determines that the session has exceeded the reason stated in the original motion to hold a closed session or if the member contends that the closed session is neither clearly necessary for (a) the protection of the public interest or (b) the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual. Such challenge shall be overruled only by a majority vote of the members of the public body. Such challenge and its disposition shall be recorded in the minutes.

(4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require that any meeting be closed to the public. No person or public body shall fail to invite a portion of its members to a meeting, and no public body shall designate itself a subcommittee of the whole body for the purpose of circumventing the Open Meetings Act. No closed session, informal meeting, chance meeting, social gathering, email, fax, or other electronic communication shall be used for the purpose of circumventing the requirements of the act.

(5) The act does not apply to chance meetings or to attendance at or travel to conventions or workshops of members of a public body at which there is no meeting of the body then intentionally convened, if there is no vote or other action taken regarding any matter over which the public body has supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power.

Source: Laws 1975, LB 325, § 3; Laws 1983, LB 43, § 2; Laws 1985, LB 117, § 1; Laws 1992, LB 1019, § 125; Laws 1994, LB 621, § 1; Laws 1996, LB 900, § 1072; Laws 2004, LB 821, § 37; Laws 2004, LB 1179, § 1; Laws 2006, LB 898, § 1; Laws 2011, LB390, § 29; Laws 2012, LB995, § 17.

Annotations

- There is no absolute discovery privilege for communications that occur during a closed session. *State ex rel. Upper Republican NRD v. District Judges*, 273 Neb. 148, 728 N.W.2d 275 (2007).
- If a person present at a meeting observes a public meetings law violation in the form of an improper closed session and fails to object, that person waives his or her right to object at a later date. *Wasikowski v. Nebraska Quality Jobs Bd.*, 264 Neb. 403, 648 N.W.2d 756 (2002).
- The public interest mentioned in this section is that shared by citizens in general and by the community at large concerning pecuniary or legal rights and liabilities. *Grein v. Board of Education*, 216 Neb. 158, 343 N.W.2d 718 (1984).
- Hearing in closed executive session was contrary to this section since there was no showing of necessity or reason under subdivision (1)(a), (b), or (c), but did not result in reversal of board decision. *Simonds v. Board of Examiners*, 213 Neb. 259, 329 N.W.2d 92

(1983).

- Negotiations for the purchase of land need not be conducted at an open meeting but the deliberations of a city council as to whether an offer to purchase real estate should be made should take place in an open meeting. *Pokorny v. City of Schuyler*, 202 Neb. 334, 275 N.W.2d 281 (1979).
- Public meeting law was not violated where the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska voted to hold a closed session to consider the university president's resignation, and also discussed the appointment of an interim president during such session. *Meyer v. Board of Regents*, 1 Neb. App. 893, 510 N.W.2d 450 (1993).

84-1411. Meetings of public body; notice; method; contents; when available; right to modify; duties concerning notice; virtual conferencing authorized; requirements; emergency meeting without notice; appearance before public body; applicability of section.

(1) Until January 1, 2025:

(a) Except as provided in subsection (10) of this section, each public body shall give reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and place of each meeting as provided in this subsection. Such notice shall be transmitted to all members of the public body and to the public.

(b)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (1)(b)(ii) of this section, in the case of a public body described in subdivision (1)(a)(i) of section 84-1409 or such body's advisory committee, such notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction and, if available, on such newspaper's website.

(ii) In the case of the governing body of a city of the second class or village or such body's advisory committee or the governing body of a rural or suburban fire protection district, such notice shall be published by:

(A) Publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction and, if available, on such newspaper's website; or

(B) Posting written notice in three conspicuous public places in such city, village, or district. Such notice shall be posted in the same three places for each meeting.

(iii) In the case of a public body not described in subdivision (1)(b)(i) or (ii) of this section, such notice shall be given by a method designated by the public body.

(iv) In case of refusal, neglect, or inability of the newspaper to timely publish the notice, the public body shall (A) post such notice on its website, if available, and (B) post such notice in a conspicuous public place in such public body's jurisdiction. The public body shall keep a written record of such posting. The record of such posting shall be evidence that such posting was done as required and shall be sufficient to fulfill the requirement of publication.

(c) In addition to a method of notice required by subdivision (1)(b)(i) or (ii) of this section, such notice may also be provided by any other appropriate method designated by such public body or such advisory committee.

(d) Each public body shall record the methods and dates of such notice in its minutes.

(e) Such notice shall contain an agenda of subjects known at the time of the publicized notice or a statement that the agenda, which shall be kept continually current, shall be readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the public body during normal business hours.

Agenda items shall be sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at the meeting. Except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda shall not be altered later than (i) twenty-four hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting or (ii) forty-eight hours before the scheduled commencement of a meeting of a city council or village board scheduled outside the corporate limits of the municipality. The public body shall have the right to modify the agenda to include items of an emergency nature only at such public meeting.

(2) Beginning January 1, 2025:

(a) Except as provided in subsection (10) of this section, each public body shall give reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and place of each meeting as provided in this subsection. Such notice shall be transmitted to all members of the public body and to the public.

(b)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (2)(b)(ii) of this section, in the case of a public body described in subdivision (1)(a)(i) of section 84-1409 or such body's advisory committees, such notice shall be given by:

(A)(I) Publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction that is finalized for printing prior to the time and date of the meeting, (II) posting on such newspaper's website, if available, and (III) posting on a statewide website established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers. Such notice shall be placed in the newspaper and on the websites by the newspaper; or

(B)(I) Posting to the newspaper's website, if available, and (II) posting to a statewide website established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers if no edition of a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction is to be finalized for printing prior to the time and date of the meeting. Such notice shall be placed in the newspaper and on the websites by the newspaper.

(ii) In the case of the governing body of a city of the second class or village, any advisory committee of such governing body, or the governing body of a rural or suburban fire protection district, such notice shall be given by:

(A)(I) Publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction that is finalized for printing prior to the time and date of the meeting, (II) posting on such newspaper's website, if available, and (III) posting on a statewide website established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers. Such notice shall be placed in the newspaper and on the websites by the newspaper;

(B)(I) Posting to the newspaper's website, if available, and (II) posting on a statewide website established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers if no edition of a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction is to be finalized for printing prior to the time and date of the meeting. Such notice shall be placed in the newspaper and on the websites by the newspaper; or

(C) Posting written notice in three conspicuous public places in such city, village, or district. Such notice shall be posted by the public body in the same three places for each meeting.

(iii) In the case of a public body not described in subdivision (2)(b)(i) or (ii) of this section, such notice shall be given by a method designated by the public body.

(iv) In case of refusal, neglect, or inability of the newspaper to publish the notice, the public

body shall (A) post such notice on its website, if available, (B) submit a post on a statewide website established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers, and (C) post such notice in a conspicuous public place in such public body's jurisdiction. The public body shall keep a written record of such posting. The record of such posting shall be evidence that such posting was done as required and shall be sufficient to fulfill the requirement of publication.

(3)(a) The following entities may hold a meeting by means of virtual conferencing if the requirements of subdivision (3)(b) of this section are met:

(i) A state agency, state board, state commission, state council, or state committee, or an advisory committee of any such state entity;

(ii) An organization, including the governing body, created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, the Joint Public Agency Act, or the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act;

(iii) The governing body of a public power district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state;

(iv) The governing body of a public power and irrigation district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state;

(v) An educational service unit;

(vi) The Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council;

(vii) An organization, including the governing body, of a risk management pool or its advisory committees organized in accordance with the Intergovernmental Risk Management Act;

(viii) A community college board of governors;

(ix) The Nebraska Brand Committee;

(x) A local public health department;

(xi) A metropolitan utilities district;

(xii) A regional metropolitan transit authority; and

(xiii) A natural resources district.

(b) The requirements for holding a meeting by means of virtual conferencing are as follows:

(i) Reasonable advance publicized notice is given as provided in subsections (1) and (2) of this section, including providing access to a dial-in number or link to the virtual conference;

(ii) In addition to the public's right to participate by virtual conferencing, reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend at a physical site and participate as provided in section 84-1412, including reasonable seating, in at least one designated site in a building open to the public and identified in the notice, with: At least one member of the entity holding such meeting, or his or her designee, present at each site; a recording of the hearing by audio or visual recording devices; and a reasonable opportunity for input, such as public comment or questions, is provided to at least the same extent as would be

provided if virtual conferencing was not used;

(iii) At least one copy of all documents being considered at the meeting is available at any physical site open to the public where individuals may attend the virtual conference. The public body shall also provide links to an electronic copy of the agenda, all documents being considered at the meeting, and the current version of the Open Meetings Act; and

(iv) Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision, subsection (1) of section 70-1014, subsection (2) of section 70-1014.02, or subsection (4) of section 79-2204, no more than one-half of the meetings of the state entities, advisory committees, boards, councils, organizations, or governing bodies are held by virtual conferencing in a calendar year. In the case of (A) an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas, (B) an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, (C) a governing body of a risk management pool and any advisory committee of such governing body, or (D) any advisory committee of any state entity created in response to the Opioid Prevention and Treatment Act, such organization, governing body, or committee may hold more than one-half of its meetings by virtual conferencing if such organization holds at least one meeting each calendar year that is not by virtual conferencing.

(4) Virtual conferencing, emails, faxes, or other electronic communication shall not be used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act.

(5) The secretary or other designee of each public body shall maintain a list of the news media requesting notification of meetings and shall make reasonable efforts to provide advance notification to them of the time and place of each meeting and the subjects to be discussed at that meeting.

(6) When it is necessary to hold an emergency meeting without reasonable advance public notice, the nature of the emergency shall be stated in the minutes and any formal action taken in such meeting shall pertain only to the emergency. Such emergency meetings may be held by virtual conferencing. The provisions of subsection (5) of this section shall be complied with in conducting emergency meetings. Complete minutes of such emergency meetings specifying the nature of the emergency and any formal action taken at the meeting shall be made available to the public by no later than the end of the next regular business day.

(7) A public body may allow a member of the public or any other witness to appear before the public body by means of virtual conferencing.

(8)(a) Notwithstanding subsections (3) and (6) of this section, if an emergency is declared by the Governor pursuant to the Emergency Management Act as defined in section 81-829.39, a public body the territorial jurisdiction of which is included in the emergency declaration, in whole or in part, may hold a meeting by virtual conferencing during such emergency if the public body gives reasonable advance publicized notice as described in subsections (1) and (2) of this section. The notice shall include information regarding access for the public and news media. In addition to any formal action taken pertaining to the emergency, the public body may hold such meeting for the purpose of briefing, discussion of public business, formation of tentative policy, or the taking of any action by the public body.

(b) The public body shall provide access by providing a dial-in number or a link to the virtual conference. The public body shall also provide links to an electronic copy of the agenda, all documents being considered at the meeting, and the current version of the Open Meetings Act. Reasonable arrangements shall be made to accommodate the public's right to hear and speak at

the meeting and record the meeting. Subsection (5) of this section shall be complied with in conducting such meetings.

(c) The nature of the emergency shall be stated in the minutes. Complete minutes of such meeting specifying the nature of the emergency and any formal action taken at the meeting shall be made available for inspection as provided in subsection (5) of section 84-1413.

(9) In addition to any other statutory authorization for virtual conferencing, any public body not listed in subdivision (3)(a) of this section may hold a meeting by virtual conferencing if:

(a) The purpose of the virtual meeting is to discuss items that are scheduled to be discussed or acted upon at a subsequent non-virtual open meeting of the public body;

(b) No action is taken by the public body at the virtual meeting; and

(c) The public body complies with subdivisions (3)(b)(i) and (ii) of this section.

(10) This section does not apply to a meeting of the Nebraska Power Review Board or a public power district, a public power and irrigation district, an electric membership association, an electric cooperative company, a municipality having a generation and distribution system, or a registered group of municipalities if such meeting is subject to section 70-1034.

Source: Laws 1975, LB 325, § 4; Laws 1983, LB 43, § 3; Laws 1987, LB 663, § 25; Laws 1993, LB 635, § 2; Laws 1996, LB 469, § 6; Laws 1996, LB 1161, § 1; Laws 1999, LB 47, § 2; Laws 1999, LB 87, § 100; Laws 1999, LB 461, § 1; Laws 2000, LB 968, § 85; Laws 2004, LB 821, § 38; Laws 2004, LB 1179, § 2; Laws 2006, LB 898, § 2; Laws 2007, LB199, § 9; Laws 2009, LB361, § 2; Laws 2012, LB735, § 1; Laws 2013, LB510, § 1; Laws 2017, LB318, § 1; Laws 2019, LB212, § 5; Laws 2020, LB148, § 3; Laws 2021, LB83, § 12; Laws 2022, LB742, § 1; Laws 2022, LB908, § 1; Laws 2022, LB922, § 13; Laws 2024, LB287, § 74; Laws 2024, LB399, § 4; Laws 2024, LB1370, § 8.

Note: The Revisor of Statutes has pursuant to section 49-769 correlated LB287, section 74, with LB399, section 4, and LB1370, section 8, to reflect all amendments.

Note: Changes made by LB287 became operative April 17, 2024. Changes made by LB399 became effective July 19, 2024. Changes made by LB1370 became operative July 19, 2024.

Cross References

- **Emergency Management Act**, see section 81-829.36.
- **Intergovernmental Risk Management Act**, see section 44-4301.
- **Interlocal Cooperation Act**, see section 13-801.
- **Joint Public Agency Act**, see section 13-2501.
- **Municipal Cooperative Financing Act**, see section 18-2401.
- **Opioid Prevention and Treatment Act**, see section 71-2485.

Annotations

- Under subsection (1) of this section, the Legislature has imposed only two conditions on

the public body's notification method of a public meeting: (1) It must give reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and place of each meeting and (2) it must be recorded in the public body's minutes. *City of Elkhorn v. City of Omaha*, 272 Neb. 867, 725 N.W.2d 792 (2007).

- An emergency is "(a)ny event or occasional combination of circumstances which calls for immediate action or remedy; pressing necessity; exigency; a sudden or unexpected happening; an unforeseen occurrence or condition." *Steenblock v. Elkhorn Township Bd.*, 245 Neb. 722, 515 N.W.2d 128 (1994).
- An agenda which gives reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at a meeting of a city council complies with the requirements of this section. *Pokorny v. City of Schuyler*, 202 Neb. 334, 275 N.W.2d 281 (1979).
- When notice is required, a notice of a special meeting of a city council posted in three public places at 10:00 p.m. on the day preceding the meeting is not reasonable advance publicized notice of a meeting as is required by this section. *Pokorny v. City of Schuyler*, 202 Neb. 334, 275 N.W.2d 281 (1979).
- Teacher waived right to object to lack of public notice in board of education employment hearing by voluntary participation in the hearing without objection. *Alexander v. School Dist. No. 17*, 197 Neb. 251, 248 N.W.2d 335 (1976).
- A county board of commissioners and a county board of equalization are not required to give separate notices when the notice states only the time and place that the boards meet and directs a citizen to where the agendas for each board can be found. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (2009).
- A county board of equalization is a public body which is required to give advanced publicized notice of its meetings. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (2009).
- Notice of recessed and reconvened meetings must be given in the same fashion as the original meeting. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (2009).
- True notice of a meeting is not given by burying such in the minutes of a prior board proceeding. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (2009).
- An agenda notice which merely stated "work order reports" was an inadequate notice under this section because it did not give interested persons knowledge that plans for a 345 kv transmission line through the district was going to be discussed and voted upon at the meeting. Inadequate agenda notice under this section meant there was a substantial violation of the public meeting laws; however, later actions by the board of directors cured the defects in notice, and such actions were in substantial compliance with the statute. *Hansmeyer v. Nebraska Pub. Power Dist.*, 6 Neb. App. 889, 578 N.W.2d 476 (1998).

84-1412. Meetings of public body; rights of public; public body; powers and duties.

(1) Subject to the Open Meetings Act, the public has the right to attend and the right to speak at meetings of public bodies, and all or any part of a meeting of a public body, except for closed sessions called pursuant to section 84-1410, may be videotaped, televised, photographed, broadcast, or recorded by any person in attendance by means of a tape recorder, a camera, video equipment, or any other means of pictorial or sonic reproduction or in writing. Except for closed sessions called pursuant to section 84-1410, a public body shall allow members of the public an opportunity to speak at each meeting.

(2) It shall not be a violation of subsection (1) of this section for any public body to make and enforce reasonable rules and regulations regarding the conduct of persons attending, speaking at, videotaping, televising, photographing, broadcasting, or recording its meetings, including meetings held by virtual conferencing.

(3) No public body shall require members of the public to identify themselves as a condition for admission to the meeting nor shall such body require that the name of any member of the public be placed on the agenda prior to such meeting in order to speak about items on the agenda. The body shall require any member of the public desiring to address the body to identify himself or herself, including an address and the name of any organization represented by such person unless the address requirement is waived to protect the security of the individual.

(4) No public body shall, for the purpose of circumventing the Open Meetings Act, hold a meeting in a place known by the body to be too small to accommodate the anticipated audience.

(5) No public body shall be deemed in violation of this section if it holds its meeting in its traditional meeting place which is located in this state.

(6) No public body shall be deemed in violation of this section if it holds a meeting outside of this state if, but only if:

(a) A member entity of the public body is located outside of this state and the meeting is in that member's jurisdiction;

(b) All out-of-state locations identified in the notice are located within public buildings used by members of the entity or at a place which will accommodate the anticipated audience;

(c) Reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend, hear, and speak at the meeting, including making virtual conferencing available at an in-state location to members, the public, or the press, if requested twenty-four hours in advance;

(d) No more than twenty-five percent of the public body's meetings in a calendar year are held out-of-state;

(e) Out-of-state meetings are not used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act; and

(f) The public body publishes notice of the out-of-state meeting at least twenty-one days before the date of the meeting in a legal newspaper of statewide circulation.

(7) Each public body shall, upon request, make a reasonable effort to accommodate the public's right to hear the discussion and testimony presented at a meeting.

(8) Public bodies shall make available at the meeting or the in-state location for virtual conferencing as required by subdivision (6)(c) of this section, for examination and copying by members of the public, at least one copy of all reproducible written material to be discussed at an open meeting, either in paper or electronic form. Public bodies shall make available at least one current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted in the meeting room at a location accessible to members of the public. At the beginning of the meeting, the public shall be informed about the location of the posted information.

Source: Laws 1975, LB 325, § 5; Laws 1983, LB 43, § 4; Laws 1985, LB 117, § 2; Laws 1987, LB 324, § 5; Laws 1996, LB 900, § 1073; Laws 2001, LB 250, § 2; Laws 2004, LB 821, § 39; Laws 2006, LB 898, § 3; Laws 2008, LB962, § 1; Laws 2021, LB83, § 13; Laws 2024, LB43, § 21.

Operative Date: July 19, 2024

Annotations

- To preserve an objection that a public body failed to make documents available at a public meeting as required by subsection (8) of this section, a person who attends a public meeting must not only object to the violation, but must make that objection to the public body or to a member of the public body. *Stoetzel & Sons v. City of Hastings*, 265 Neb. 637, 658 N.W.2d 636 (2003).

84-1413. Meetings; minutes; roll call vote; secret ballot; when; agenda and minutes; required on website; when.

(1) Each public body shall keep minutes of all meetings showing the time, place, members present and absent, and the substance of all matters discussed.

(2) Any action taken on any question or motion duly moved and seconded shall be by roll call vote of the public body in open session, and the record shall state how each member voted or if the member was absent or not voting. The requirements of a roll call or viva voce vote shall be satisfied by a public body which utilizes an electronic voting device which allows the yeas and nays of each member of such public body to be readily seen by the public.

(3) The vote to elect leadership within a public body may be taken by secret ballot, but the total number of votes for each candidate shall be recorded in the minutes.

(4) The minutes of all meetings and evidence and documentation received or disclosed in open session shall be public records and open to public inspection during normal business hours.

(5) Minutes shall be written or kept as an electronic record and shall be available for inspection within ten working days or prior to the next convened meeting, whichever occurs earlier, except that cities of the second class and villages may have an additional ten working days if the employee responsible for writing or keeping the minutes is absent due to a serious illness or emergency.

(6) Beginning July 31, 2022, the governing body of a natural resources district, the city council of a city of the metropolitan class, the city council of a city of the primary class, the city council of a city of the first class, the county board of a county with a population greater than twenty-five thousand inhabitants, and the school board of a school district shall make available on such entity's public website the agenda and minutes of any meeting of the governing body. The agenda shall be placed on the website at least twenty-four hours before the meeting of the governing body. Minutes shall be placed on the website at such time as the minutes are available for inspection as provided in subsection (5) of this section. This information shall be available on the public website for at least six months.

Source: Laws 1975, LB 325, § 6; Laws 1978, LB 609, § 3; Laws 1979, LB 86, § 9; Laws 1987, LB 663, § 26; Laws 2005, LB 501, § 1; Laws 2009, LB361, § 3; Laws 2015, LB365, § 2; Laws 2016, LB876, § 1; Laws 2021, LB83, § 14; Laws 2022, LB742, § 2.

Annotations

- Under prior law, if a person present at a meeting observes and fails to object to an alleged public meetings laws violation in the form of a failure to conduct rollcall votes before

taking actions on questions or motions pending, that person waives his or her right to object at a later date. *Hauser v. Nebraska Police Stds. Adv. Council*, 264 Neb. 944, 653 N.W.2d 240 (2002).

- Subsection (2) of this section does not require the record to state that the vote was by roll call, but requires only that the record show if and how each member voted. Neither does the statute set a time limit for recording the results of a vote, after which no corrections of the record can be made. If no intervening rights of third persons have arisen, a board of county commissioners has power to correct the record of the proceedings had at a previous meeting so as to make them speak the truth, particularly where the correction supplies some omitted fact or action and is done not to contradict or change the original record but to have the record show that a certain action was taken or thing done, which the original record fails to show. *State ex rel. Schuler v. Dunbar*, 214 Neb. 85, 333 N.W.2d 652 (1983).
- Failure by a public governing body, as defined under section 84-1409, R.R.S.1943, to take and record a roll call vote on an action, as required by section 84-1413(2), R.S.Supp.,1980, grants any citizen the right to sue for the purpose of having the action declared void. In this case such failure could not be later corrected by a nunc pro tunc order because there was no showing that a roll call vote on the disputed action was actually taken, and even if it was the record showed it was not recorded until over a year later. Sections 23-1301, R.R.S.1943, and 23-1302, R.R.S.1943, make it the duty of the county clerk to record proceedings of the board of county commissioners. *State ex rel. Schuler v. Dunbar*, 208 Neb. 69, 302 N.W.2d 674 (1981).
- There is no requirement that a public body make a record of where notice was published or posted. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (2009).

84-1414. Unlawful action by public body; declared void or voidable by district court; when; duty to enforce open meeting laws; citizen's suit; procedure; violations; penalties.

(1) Any motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action of a public body made or taken in violation of the Open Meetings Act shall be declared void by the district court if the suit is commenced within one hundred twenty days of the meeting of the public body at which the alleged violation occurred. Any motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action of a public body made or taken in substantial violation of the Open Meetings Act shall be voidable by the district court if the suit is commenced more than one hundred twenty days after but within one year of the meeting of the public body in which the alleged violation occurred. A suit to void any final action shall be commenced within one year of the action.

(2) The Attorney General and the county attorney of the county in which the public body ordinarily meets shall enforce the Open Meetings Act.

(3) Any citizen of this state may commence a suit in the district court of the county in which the public body ordinarily meets or in which the plaintiff resides for the purpose of requiring compliance with or preventing violations of the Open Meetings Act, for the purpose of declaring an action of a public body void, or for the purpose of determining the applicability of the act to discussions or decisions of the public body. It shall not be a defense that the citizen attended the meeting and failed to object at such time. The court may order payment of reasonable attorney's fees and court costs to a successful plaintiff in a suit brought under this section.

(4) Any member of a public body who knowingly violates or conspires to violate or who attends or remains at a meeting knowing that the public body is in violation of any provision of the Open Meetings Act shall be guilty of a Class IV misdemeanor for a first offense and a Class III misdemeanor for a second or subsequent offense.

Source: Laws 1975, LB 325, § 9; Laws 1977, LB 39, § 318; Laws 1983, LB 43, § 5; Laws 1992, LB 1019, § 126; Laws 1994, LB 621, § 2; Laws 1996, LB 900, § 1074; Laws 2004, LB 821, § 40; Laws 2006, LB 898, § 4.

Annotations

- The Legislature has granted standing to a broad scope of its citizens for the very limited purpose of challenging meetings allegedly in violation of the Open Meetings Act, so that they may help police the public policy embodied by the act. *Schauer v. Grooms*, 280 Neb. 426, 786 N.W.2d 909 (2010).
- Any citizen of the state may commence an action to declare a public body's action void. *City of Elkhorn v. City of Omaha*, 272 Neb. 867, 725 N.W.2d 792 (2007).
- The reading of ordinances constitutes a formal action under subsection (1) of this section. *City of Elkhorn v. City of Omaha*, 272 Neb. 867, 725 N.W.2d 792 (2007).
- If a person present at a meeting observes a public meetings law violation in the form of an improper closed session and fails to object, that person waives his or her right to object at a later date. *Wasikowski v. Nebraska Quality Jobs Bd.*, 264 Neb. 403, 648 N.W.2d 756 (2002).
- Under the Public Meetings Act, a county lacks capacity to maintain an action to declare its official conduct "void" for noncompliance with the act. *County of York v. Johnson*, 230 Neb. 403, 432 N.W.2d 215 (1988).
- When a petitioner under this section is successful in the district court, that court may allow attorney fees. *Tracy Corp. II v. Nebraska Pub. Serv. Comm.*, 218 Neb. 900, 360 N.W.2d 485 (1984).
- Informal discussions between the Tax Commissioner and the State Board of Equalization in which instructions were clarified, with such clarification leading to the amendment of hearing notices, did not constitute a public meeting subject to the provisions of this section. *Box Butte County v. State Board of Equalization and Assessment*, 206 Neb. 696, 295 N.W.2d 670 (1980).
- The right to collaterally attack an order made in contravention of the Public Meeting Act must occur within a period of one year as is specifically provided by this section. *Witt v. School District No. 70*, 202 Neb. 63, 273 N.W.2d 669 (1979).
- Statutory change, requiring "publicized notice" for board of education employment hearings, occurring between dates meeting scheduled and conducted, held not to void proceedings. *Alexander v. School Dist. No. 17*, 197 Neb. 251, 248 N.W.2d 335 (1976).
- Voiding an entire meeting is a proper remedy for violations of the Open Meetings Act. Once a meeting has been declared void pursuant to Nebraska's public meetings law, board members are prohibited from considering any information obtained at the illegal meeting. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (2009).
- Actions by the board of directors were merely voidable under this section, and not void. Pursuant to subsection (3) of this section, the plaintiffs were awarded partial attorney fees because they were successful in having the court declare that the board of directors was in substantial violation of the statute, even though the plaintiffs did not get the relief requested of having the board's actions declared void. *Hansmeyer v. Nebraska Pub. Power Dist.*, 6 Neb. App. 889, 578 N.W.2d 476 (1998).

2. Minutes of November 12, 2024, meeting.

PLANNING COMMISSION
November 12, 2024

A meeting of the Planning Commission of the City of Columbus, Nebraska, was convened in open and public session on November 12, 2024, at 6 p.m. in the Columbus Community Building, Community Room, 2500 14 Street, Columbus, Nebraska. Notice of this meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Columbus Telegram on October 30, 2024, with a copy of the proof of publication being on file in the office of the city clerk. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to the mayor, members of the city council, and members of the Planning Commission. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the public.

- 1. Statement of Compliance with Open Meetings Act and roll call.** Chair Goc announced that a copy of the Open Meetings Act is available at this meeting. Present were members Steve Anderson, Bob Elsasser, Melissa Goc, Tom Lange, Fernando Lopez Jr., Josh Mueller, and Tom Pillen. Members Colleen Bray and Robbin Cutsor were absent and excused. City staff members included City Attorney Gene Schumacher, City Engineer Rick Bogus, City Clerk Shuraya Choat, Chief Building and Code Official Andy Woehrer, Project Engineer Braden Labenz, Engineering Administrative Specialist Renee Whiting, and Senior Office Associate Vanessa Adame. Also present was Mayor James Bulkley.
- 2. Minutes of October 14, 2024, meeting.** The minutes were approved as presented with a motion by Elsasser and a second by Mueller. Anderson, Elsasser, Goc, Lange, Lopez, Mueller and Pillen voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay". Bray and Cutsor were absent.
- 3. Public hearing - Text Amendment to Chapters 151 and 152 of the Columbus City Code, proposing to re-number, re-letter and revise the existing provisions, Tables, and Figures and to adopt said Columbus Land Development Ordinance, Zoning Chapter and Subdivision Chapter.** Woehrer clarified that this text amendment would correct the numbering system and format of the Zoning and Subdivision Chapters within the city code book to be more in line with the adopted Columbus Land Development Ordinance. No public testimony was heard. The public hearing closed with a motion by Elsasser and a second by Lopez. Anderson, Elsasser, Goc, Lange, Lopez, Mueller, and Pillen voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay". Bray and Cutsor were absent. A recommendation was made by Anderson and a second by Elsasser to approve the Text Amendment as presented and to adopt the Columbus Land Development Ordinance: Zoning Chapter and Subdivision Chapter. Anderson, Elsasser, Goc, Lange, Lopez, Mueller, and Pillen voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay". Bray and Cutsor were absent.
- 4. Request from City of Columbus to rename 10th Avenue abutting Lot 14, Block A, Lot 20, Block B, and Lots 1 through 6, Block C, Quail Meadows Addition to South 10th Avenue.** Bogus explained that renaming the street to

PLANNING COMMISSION

November 12, 2024

Page 2

“South 10th Avenue” would eliminate confusion while keeping the home addresses in a consistent numerical format. A recommendation was made by Lopez and a second by Pillen that 10th Avenue within Quail Meadows Addition be renamed to South 10th Avenue. Anderson, Elsasser, Goc, Lange, Lopez, Mueller, and Pillen voted “Aye” and none voted “Nay”. Bray and Cutsor were absent.

5. Building report for October. The building report was presented.

6. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

OFFICE OF THE CITY ENGINEER

: Renee Whiting

3. Public hearing - Redevelopment Plan for Innate Concepts Redevelopment Project.

**NOTICE OF HEARING
TO ALL PARTIES IN INTEREST AND CITIZENS OF
COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA**

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing before the Planning Commission of the City of Columbus, Nebraska, will be held on Monday, December 9, 2024, at 6 P.M., in the Columbus Community Building, Community Room, 2500 14th St., Columbus, NE 68601, to consider and possibly take action on a redevelopment plan entitled: "Redevelopment Plan for the Innate Concepts Redevelopment Project," for redevelopment pursuant to the Community Development Law, Nebraska Revised Statutes, sections 18-2101, et seq., within a portion of a blighted and substandard community redevelopment area of the City, approximately located to the southeast of the intersection of 38th Street and 43rd Avenue, in Columbus, Nebraska. A map of the proposed area to be redeveloped and the cost-benefit analysis for the redevelopment project set forth in the redevelopment plan is available for review at the office of the City Clerk at 2500 14th St., Suite 3, Columbus, NE 68601. At said time and place all interested parties may appear and be heard.

City of Columbus, NE
Shuraya Choat, City Clerk

Publish: 11:21:24; 11:27:24
Affidavit of Publication



City Hall
2500 14th St.
Columbus, NE 68601
402-562-4232
columbusne.us

memorandum

DATE: December 4, 2024
TO: Tara Vasicek, City Administrator
FROM: Jean Van Iperen, Planning & Economic Development Coordinator
RE: Redevelopment Plan for Full Circle Services, Inc. d/b/a/Innate Concepts Redevelopment Project

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of the Redevelopment Plan for Full Circle Services, Inc. d/b/a/ Innate Concepts Redevelopment Project

DISCUSSION:

The redevelopment plan details a proposed redevelopment project located southeast of the intersection of 43rd Avenue and 38th Street. The project will consist of the construction of new construction of a multi-family apartment complex consisting of five - 22 unit apartments (110 doors). It is estimated the apartment complex will consist of 60 one bedroom units and 50 two bedroom units. The residential units in this project will meet the criteria for workforce housing and will qualify for TIF under the Act and the workforce incentive plan adopted by the City. Explanation of the Workforce Housing TIF can be found in Section J on page 8 of the Redevelopment Plan.

In order for the area to be used for the planned purpose, substantial improvements are required including all public infrastructure on streets extension of 43rd Avenue along the western boundary of the property, extension of water and sewer systems to the project site including extension of City water along the entire western boundary, extension of the sanitary sewer from the southernmost access point from 43rd Avenue to the project site, and the collection of storm water on the southern end of the extended 43rd Avenue. All of these improvements are detailed beginning on page 3, Section F of the Plan. These improvements represent a substantial investment in public infrastructure that would otherwise be a significant tax payer and property owner expense. Over \$3,080,275 of public street, water and sewer improvements are required for the project.

The total estimated costs of the Redevelopment Project is \$20,005,275. The full list of estimated TIF eligible expenses is detailed in Exhibit D.

The redeveloper, City and legal counsel have ensured the plan is in conformance with the City's comprehensive plan. An in-depth review is provided in section C page 1-2.

It has been determined the cost-benefit analysis prepared in conjunction with the Plan and attached as Exhibit F sets forth the factors required under section 18-2174 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes and supports the City's adoption and approval of the Plan.

As the plan states, the impacts and opportunities related to the Redevelopment Project conform to the objectives and guidance stated in the Comprehensive Plan, and outweigh arguments against the project.

ALTERNATIVE: Do not approve

Signature:

By: *Jean Van Iperen*

Approved By: *[Signature]* _____

**REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR
THE INNATE CONCEPTS REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

PREPARED NOVEMBER, 2024

**BY THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA**

A. Introduction

This Redevelopment Plan for the Innate Concepts Redevelopment Project (this “Redevelopment Plan”) is a guide for redevelopment activities to remove or eliminate blight and substandard conditions within the City of Columbus, Nebraska (“City”). The Mayor and City Council of the City, recognizing that blighted and substandard conditions are a threat to the continued stability and vitality of the City, designated certain areas of the City to be blighted and substandard and in need of redevelopment pursuant to the requirements of the Nebraska Community Development Law, sections 18-2101 et. seq., as amended (the "Act").

Prior to the preparation of this Redevelopment Plan, and in compliance with the Act, the Mayor and City Council designated a portion of the City as a blighted and substandard community redevelopment area; such area being commonly referred to as “Redevelopment Area 12” (referred to herein as the “Redevelopment Area”). This Redevelopment Plan sets forth a redevelopment project proposed by Full Circle Services, Inc., d/b/a Innate Concepts (“Redeveloper”), located within the Redevelopment Area, to optimize the tax increment financing ("TIF") resources available to offset certain costs deemed eligible for reimbursement by TIF under the Act, and to remove existing and avoid future blighted and substandard conditions, all as further described herein. This Redevelopment Plan contemplates the construction of a multi-family housing apartment complex, together with such other public and private improvements associated therewith, within the Redevelopment Area (such improvements are collectively referred to herein as the "Redevelopment Project").

B. Redevelopment Area; Project Site; Existing Conditions

Exhibit "A", attached hereto and incorporated herein, sets forth the boundaries and existing conditions of the Redevelopment Area. Exhibit "A-1", attached hereto and incorporated herein, sets forth the boundaries and existing conditions of the area to be developed as part of the Redevelopment Project (the "Project Site"). The Project Site is approximately located to the southeast of the intersection of 43rd Avenue and 38th Street, in the City. The Project Site is completely engrossed within the blighted and substandard Redevelopment Area and is in need of redevelopment.

C. Conformance with the Comprehensive Plan

It is essential to the City’s comprehensive plan for development (the “Comprehensive Plan”) that dilapidated, inadequate, or deteriorating portions of the City conform to the current and future needs of the City as it continues to grow and expand. Exhibit "B", attached hereto and incorporated herein, shows a portion of the future use map (showing the Redevelopment Area and surrounding areas) included within the City's Comprehensive Plan. The Project Site is

designated for “General Residential” use under the future use map. General Residential allows for multi-family housing. Accordingly, the anticipated uses associated with the Redevelopment Project conform to the desired use of the Project Site set forth in the Comprehensive Plan’s future use map.

The Comprehensive Plan further states that the City’s “inadequate housing supply remains one of the City’s greatest challenges.” In relation thereto, the Comprehensive Plan sets forth the following objectives:

- Use incentives (including TIF) available to the City to incentivize development and economic growth. Such incentives also help to underwrite and mitigate the risks associated with new development.
- Provide a range of housing options for a diverse and expanding workforce.
- Support initiatives to develop affordable and equitable housing.
- Encourage a variety of housing types and sizes to accommodate the needs of existing and prospective residents. This includes, but is not limited to college students, single professionals, families, empty nesters, seniors, and those of varying economic ability. Ensure there are options for convenient, affordable and dignified places to live which are located in proximity to employment centers.

The Redevelopment Project will assist in carrying out such objectives. Accordingly, the Redevelopment Project is in conformance with and furthers the objectives under the City’s Comprehensive Plan.

D. Redevelopment Project Overview

Redeveloper proposes the construction of a multi-family apartment complex, consisting of approximately 5 apartment buildings with 22 units in each building (i.e., 110 units total), together with such other public and private improvements incident thereto. An affiliated entity of Redeveloper currently owns the Project Site. No public acquisition of the Project Site is anticipated. Additionally, no families or businesses will be displaced as a result of the Redevelopment Project. Exhibit "C", attached hereto and incorporated herein, sets forth the proposed site plan for the Redevelopment Project (the “Site Plan”). The Site Plan is preliminary and subject to change.

As further detailed in Paragraph J, below, it is the intent of Redeveloper that the residential units will meet the criteria for workforce housing under the Act, of which there is low supply and high demand within the City.

E. Existing Conditions

1. Existing Land Use

The Project Site currently consists of vacant unimproved land.

2. Existing Zoning

The Project Site is currently zoned as R-3 (Multiple-Family Residential).

3. Existing Public Improvements

The Project Site abuts 43rd Avenue, but does not maintain a point of public access therefrom. The Project Site is without paving, sewer, water, storm sewer, electrical service, telecommunications service, public walks, and other necessary infrastructure.

F. Proposed Redevelopment

1. Public Improvements

The Redevelopment Project will require significant infrastructure improvements and other public improvements. These improvements will include, but are not limited to:

a. Public Access; Traffic Flow, Street Layouts and Street Grades

The Project Site abuts 43rd Avenue. Redeveloper will construct paving for ingress and egress therefrom, as well as extend 43rd Avenue along the Project Site's western boundary. The public improvements for the Redevelopment Project will address any traffic and street infrastructure concerns that would otherwise be created by the Redevelopment Project. All streets and other public infrastructure constructed by Redeveloper will be subject to review and approval by the City's engineer or other designee of the City.

b. Construction of Water and Sewer Improvements.

Redeveloper will construct or extend water and sewer systems to provide appropriate service to the Project Site. With respect thereto, Redeveloper shall be obligated to (i) extend

water infrastructure along the entirety Project Site's western boundary, in coordination with the extension of 43rd Avenue; (ii) extend sanitary sewer to the southernmost vehicular access point from 43rd Avenue to the Project Site, with a manhole placed in such location to facilitate additional development and connectivity to the south of the Project Site; and (iii) facilitate the collection of storm water on the southern end of the extended 43rd Avenue, and shall be extended per the City's requirements related to post-construction storm water management for the Project Site. All such water and sewer improvements, and the designs and plans related thereto, shall be subject to review and approval by the City's engineer or other designee of the City.

c. Other incidental improvements

The Project Site is currently undeveloped and will require grading to provide effective drainage throughout the area. The Project Site requires filling and grading to properly drain the ground water runoff and provide appropriate grading levels to erect the apartment buildings. Redeveloper also anticipates the construction of electric, gas and telecommunications utilities extending to the apartment buildings on the Project Site. The anticipated public improvements (and costs related to the public improvements) for the Redevelopment Project are listed in Exhibit "E", attached hereto and incorporated herein.

d. Additional public facilities or utilities

Other than the construction or extension of the utilities and infrastructure detailed above, Redeveloper and the City anticipate that the existing public facilities and utilities can adequately meet the demands of the Redevelopment Project.

e. Property Acquisition, Demolition and Disposal

No public acquisition of private property or relocation of families or businesses is necessary to accomplish the Redevelopment Project.

f. Population Density

The Project Site currently sits undeveloped and vacant. The Redevelopment Project is residential in nature and will increase population density in the area. Based upon the estimated 110 residential units constructed as part of the Redevelopment Project, and an average household size of 2.44, the Redevelopment Project is estimated to result in an increase in population density of approximately 268 individuals. Such an increase is desired by the City to facilitate population and economic growth.

g. Land Coverage

The Project Site consists of approximately 4 acres of undeveloped land. The Redevelopment Project will result in the construction of approximately 5 buildings, with a land coverage footprint of ~8,000 square feet per building, as shown on the Site Plan. The Redevelopment Project is subject to and must comply with all applicable land coverage ratios required under City code.

h. Parking

With respect to multi-family residential development, the City's zoning code requires 2 parking spaces per dwelling unit with two or more bedrooms, and 1.5 spaces for one-bedroom dwelling units. It is currently estimated that the apartment complex will consist of ~60 one-bedroom units and ~50 two-bedroom units, equaling a parking requirement of 190 stalls. Per the Site Plan, the complex will contain ~196 stalls, which would satisfy the requirement. Such requirements shall be conclusively determined by the City upon Redeveloper's final submittal of its development plans; and Redeveloper shall be obligated to comply with any such requirements.

i. Zoning, Building Code and Ordinance

The Project Site is currently zoned as R-3 (Multiple-Family Residential). No zoning changes are required to undertake the Redevelopment Project, as presented. Notwithstanding, Redeveloper will be responsible for all zoning, building code, or ordinance changes that are necessary for the Redevelopment Project.

2. Private Improvements

Private improvements for the Redevelopment Project consist of the construction of approximately five (5) ~25,000 square foot apartment buildings with 22 units in each building (i.e., 110 units total), together with the related facilities and improvements ancillary thereto. Redeveloper or other builders taking conveyance from Redeveloper will construct the private improvements. Paragraph H of this Redevelopment Plan details the anticipated construction schedule for the private improvements.

G. Project Costs

The total estimated costs of the Redevelopment Project are \$20,005,275. A breakdown of the estimated costs of the Redevelopment Project are attached hereto and incorporated herein

as Exhibit "D". Such figures are only estimates based upon 2024 pricing, and are subject to change without further amendment of this Redevelopment Plan.

H. Implementation

Redeveloper anticipates that construction of the Redevelopment Project will commence in spring of 2025, and will be completed by the end of 2027. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Redeveloper's timely completion of the Redevelopment Project is subject to extraneous factors, which may necessitate that Redeveloper commences and/or completes the Redevelopment Project later than the projected dates. As such, the anticipated start and completion dates are preliminary and subject to change based upon market conditions, availability of materials, workforce availability and other extraneous factors.

I. Financing

The City and the Community Development Agency of the City (the "Agency") contemplate the use of TIF for the Redevelopment Project. Section 18-2147 of the Act authorizes the use of TIF. It provides that any ad valorem tax levied upon real property, or any portion thereof, in a redevelopment project shall be divided, for a period not to exceed fifteen years after the effective date as identified in the redevelopment contract, or amendment thereof, or in the resolution(s) of the authority authorizing the issuance of bonds pursuant to the Act, as follows:

- (a) That portion of the ad valorem tax the levy produces at the rate fixed each year by or for each public body upon the redevelopment project valuation shall be paid into the funds of each such public body in the same proportion as are all other taxes collected by or for the body ("Base Tax Amount"); and
- (b) That portion of the ad valorem tax on real property, as provided in the redevelopment contract or bond/note resolution, in the redevelopment project in excess of the Base Tax Amount, if any, (referred to herein as "TIF Revenues") shall be allocated to and, when collected, paid into a special fund of the authority to be used solely to pay the principal of, the interest on, and any premiums due in connection with the bonds of, loans, notes, or advances of money to, or indebtedness incurred by, whether funded, refunded, assumed, or otherwise, such authority for financing or refinancing, in whole or in part, the redevelopment project.

With respect to the Redevelopment Project, the actual base tax year and Base Tax Amount for the Redevelopment Project will be set forth in the redevelopment contract and/or the

resolution authorizing the TIF Indebtedness (defined below). All TIF Revenues generated by the Redevelopment Project shall only be divided and allocated over the applicable 15-year increment period or until full payment of the TIF Indebtedness, whichever occurs first.

1. Necessity of TIF

Redeveloper has represented and warranted to the City that it would not be economically feasible to develop, and Redeveloper would not develop, the Redevelopment Project without the assistance of TIF. In support thereof, Redeveloper stated the following in its TIF application submitted to the City:

“The Tax Increment Financing funds will be used to offset the costs of the TIF eligible expenses to make this project possible. Eligible TIF expenses include the infrastructure costs, buildings costs, facade upgrades, developer fees, legal fees, and financing. This project will bring needed housing and create a safe community. Tax Increment Financing is one of the only instruments local developers have to offset the current interest rates & high costs.”

In addition to the unfavorable economic conditions that currently burden real estate development, the vacant condition of the Project Site, and the added site preparation costs related thereto, contribute to the site’s blighted and substandard condition and the infeasibility of its infill development without the assistance of TIF. Accordingly, it is the finding of this Redevelopment Plan that the Redevelopment Project, as proposed herein, is not economically viable without the assistance of TIF and Redeveloper would not construct the same without TIF.

2. Sources and Uses of Financing

Based upon the projections provided in Exhibit "E", attached hereto and incorporated herein, the Agency and Redeveloper contemplate issuance of one TIF bond or note (the "TIF Indebtedness") in an amount not to exceed an amount equal to the future valuation of a 15-year note with a principal amount of \$2,970,000, at an interest rate of 6.5% per annum. The final principal and interest amount comprising the TIF Indebtedness shall be determined by the Agency and set forth in the redevelopment contract or resolution authorizing the issuance of the TIF Indebtedness.

The total estimated cost of the Redevelopment Project is \$20,005,275. Redeveloper anticipates that the balance of the public and private costs exceeding the TIF Indebtedness will be financed by a mix of owner’s equity, state-issued grant funds, and traditional bank financing. The above figures are only projections and are subject to change as a result of market conditions and other extraneous factors.

J. Use of Workforce Housing TIF; Conformance with Incentive Plan

Pursuant to the Act and the workforce housing incentive plan (the “Incentive Plan”) adopted by the City, this Redevelopment Plan specifically contemplates and authorizes the use of TIF for all multi-family units/improvements constructed on the Project Site that do not exceed the maximums set forth under section 18-2103(32)(c) of the Act, as may be adjusted from time to time. Accordingly, so long as a unit complies with the maximums set forth under 18-2103(32)(c) of the Act, the improvements associated therewith shall be considered “Workforce Housing” under the Act and the City’s Incentive Plan, and shall be eligible for treatment as such with respect to the City’s administration of TIF, in accordance therewith.

Subject to the foregoing, and based upon the representations of Redeveloper, the City and Agency have determined that the proposed construction of multi-family units on the Project Site meets the definition of “Workforce Housing” under the Act, and meets the qualifications for an award of Workforce Housing TIF under the Incentive Plan, in that it:

- Is housing that meets the needs of today’s working families;
- Is housing that is attractive to new residents considering relocation to a rural community;
- Will address certain housing needs identified in the City’s current housing study;
- Will assist with the prevention of blight and substandard conditions within the City, and will help address the City’s lack of safe and suitable housing within a price range that is attainable for the City’s workforce; and
- The total cost to construct each apartment unit is estimated to be less than \$235,000 per unit.

The City has further found and determined that the grant of Workforce Housing TIF authorized and approved hereunder will not result in the unjust enrichment of Redeveloper. Rather, the use of Workforce Housing TIF will provide for a reasonable rate of return.

In the event that some, but not all, of the residential improvements constructed by Redeveloper meet the eligibility criteria for Workforce Housing TIF, this Redevelopment Plan authorizes the use of Workforce Housing TIF for only the eligible portion(s)/unit(s). Any ineligible portion(s) or unit(s) shall still qualify for normal TIF. The foregoing shall be set forth in further detail in the redevelopment contract between Redeveloper and the Agency.

K. Cost-Benefit Analysis

A cost-benefit analysis for the Redevelopment Project is attached as Exhibit "F" and incorporated herein.

Exhibits:

- Exhibit A: Redevelopment Area
- Exhibit A-1: Project Site and Existing Land Use
- Exhibit B: Future Land Use Map
- Exhibit C: Site Plan and Future Land Use
- Exhibit D: Estimated Construction Cost of the Redevelopment Project
- Exhibit E: Sources and Uses of TIF
- Exhibit F: Cost-Benefit Analysis

EXHIBIT "A"

Redevelopment Area and Existing Land Use

Depiction of Redevelopment Area (outlined in yellow):

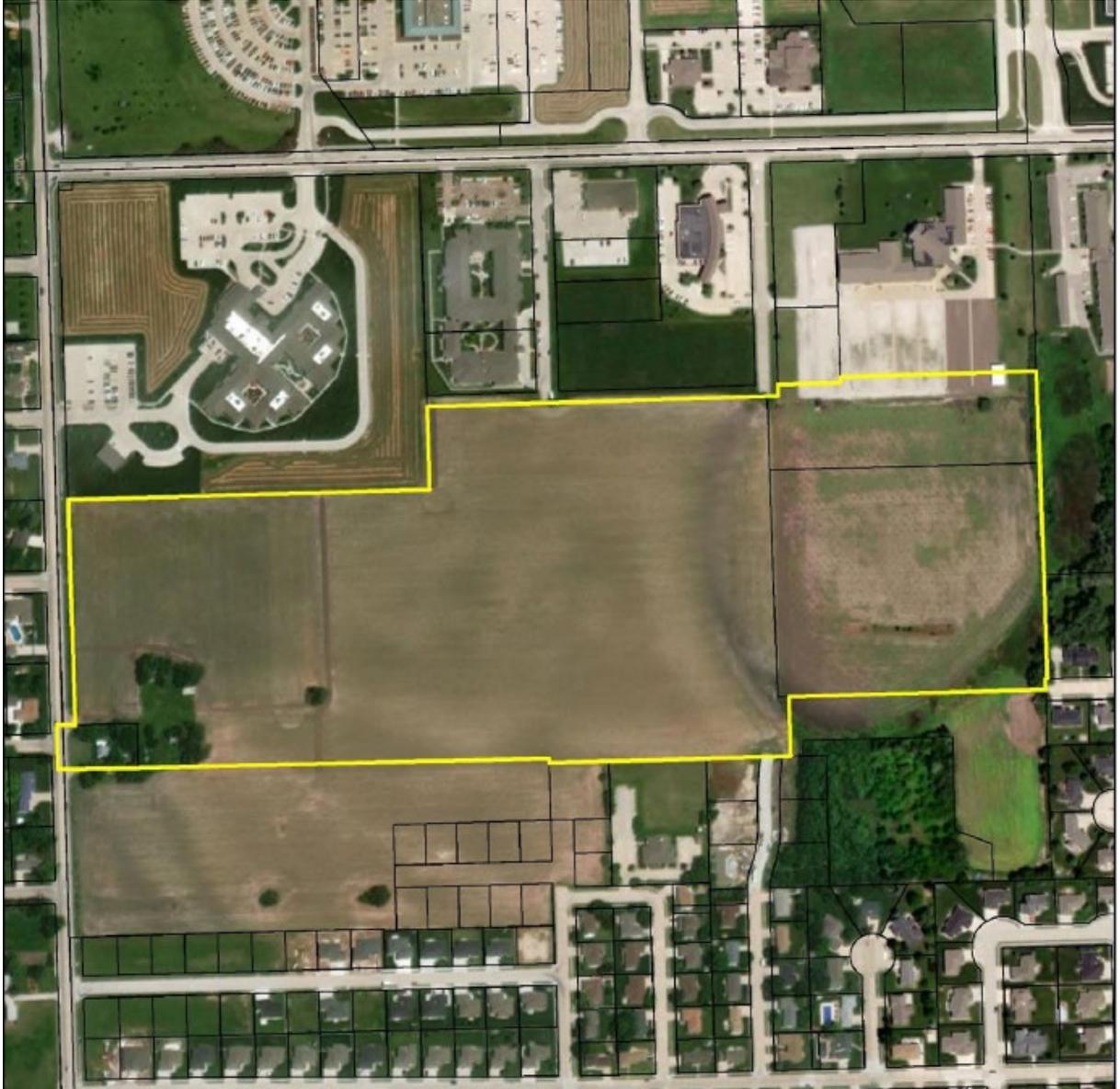


EXHIBIT "A-1"

Project Site and Existing Land Use

Legal Description:

Lot 2, Highland Park Church 2nd Addition, Columbus, Platte County, Nebraska.

* In the event Redeveloper subdivides or replats the Project Site, the legal description(s) of such subdivided or replatted parcel(s) comprising the Project Site, upon final approval of the City with respect thereto, shall replace and supersede the above legal description.

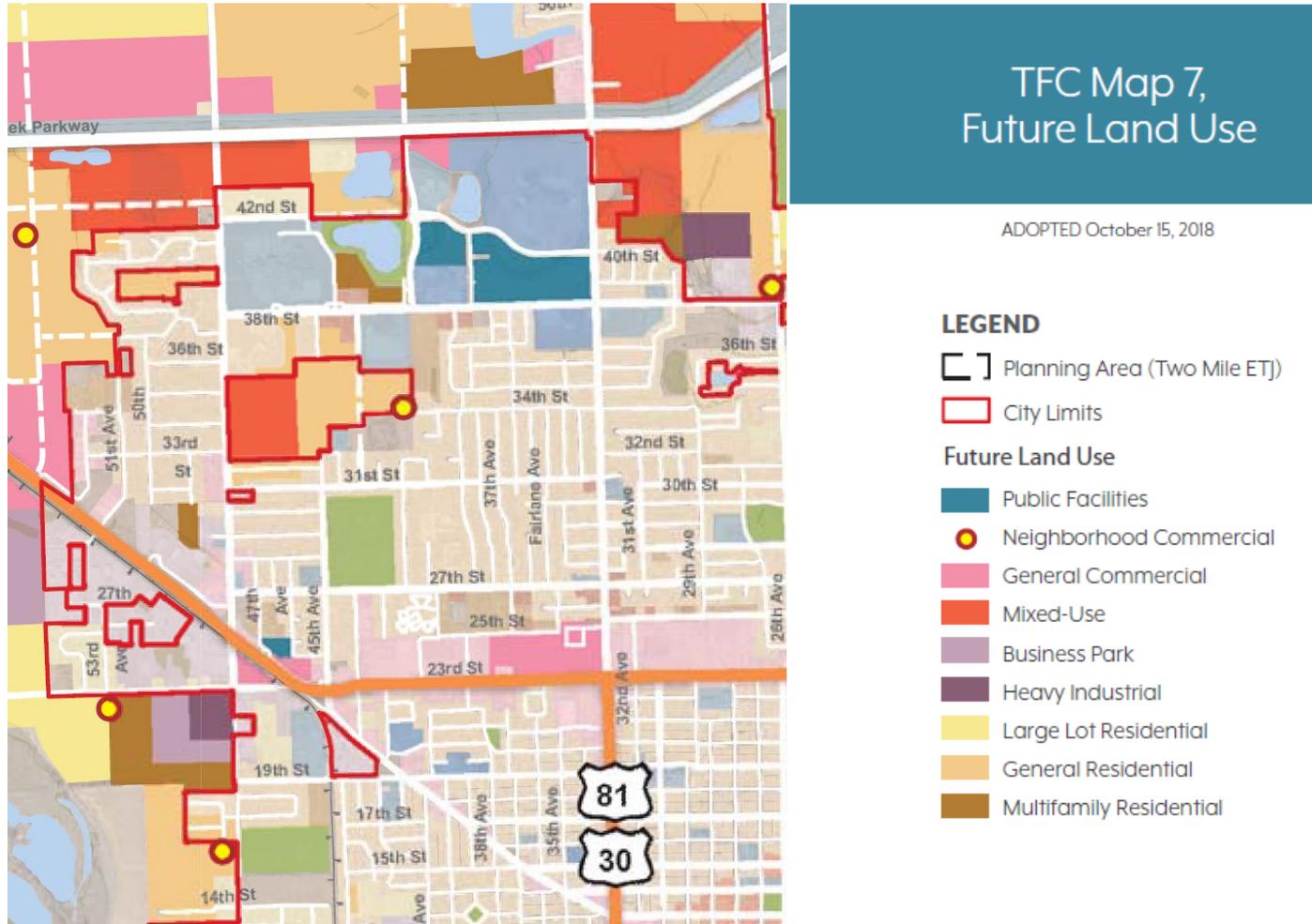
Depiction and Current Condition:



* The Project Site is outlined in red.

EXHIBIT "B"

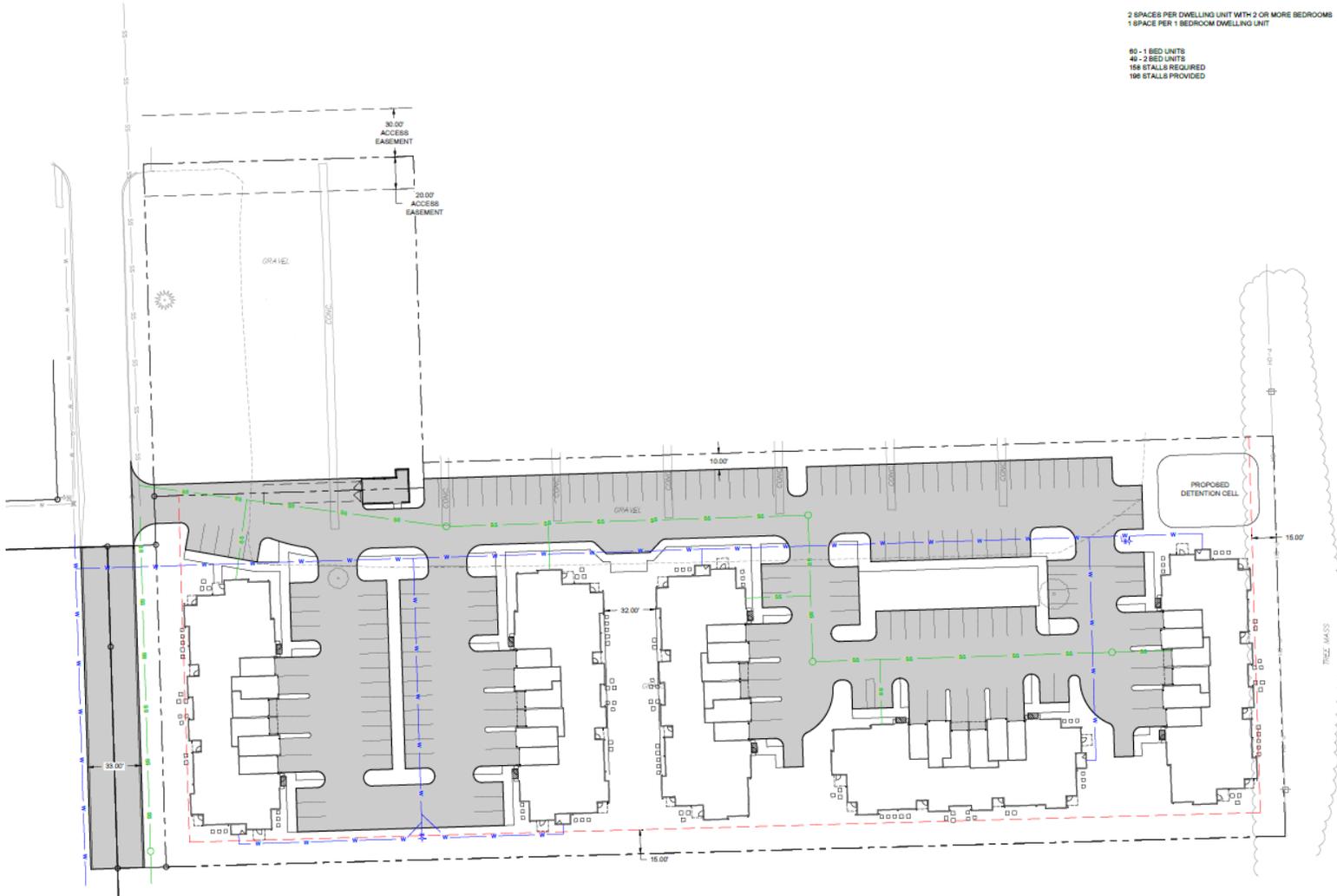
Future Land Use Map



* Project Site designated as "General Residential".

EXHIBIT "C"

Site Plan and Future Land Use



* The above is a preliminary site plan and is subject to change.

EXHIBIT "D"

Estimate of Construction Costs

Land Acquisition	\$300,000
Site Development	\$3,080,275
Building Cost	\$14,000,000
Architectural and Engineering Fees	\$375,000
Legal Fees	\$75,000
Financing Costs	\$575,000
Contingencies	\$1,600,000
<hr/>	
TOTAL	\$20,005,275

* The above figures are estimated values based on current pricing. These preliminary estimates are subject to change, as Redeveloper has no control over the change in cost of materials and services between the time of the approval of this Redevelopment Plan and commencement of construction.

EXHIBIT "E"

Sources and Uses of TIF

USES:*

Land Acquisition	\$300,000
Site Development	\$3,080,275
Building Cost**	\$14,000,000
Architectural and Engineering Fees	\$375,000
Legal Fees	\$75,000
Financing Costs	\$575,000
Contingencies	\$1,600,000
<hr/>	
TOTAL	\$20,005,275

* The above "Uses" are preliminary estimates based on current pricing and are subject to change.

** Subject to meeting the criteria of Workforce Housing TIF, as detailed under Paragraph J of the Redevelopment Plan.

SOURCES:*

General Assumptions:

Base Value:	\$174,235
Final Value:	\$17,500,000
Incremental Value:	\$17,325,765
Total TIF Revenues:	\$4,694,460
Tax Levy (2021):	1.8246%
TIF Indebtedness:	\$2,970,000
Interest Rate:	6.5%

* The above figures are estimates based upon the assumptions in this Exhibit "E" and are subject to change.

EXHIBIT "F"

Cost-Benefit Analysis (Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 18-2113)

The cost-benefit analysis for the Redevelopment Project, as described in the attached Redevelopment Plan, which will utilize funds authorized by section 18-2147 of the Act, is provided below:

1. Tax shifts resulting from the approval of the use of funds pursuant to Section 18-2147:

The taxes generated by the base value of the Project Site will continue to be allocated between the relevant taxing jurisdictions pursuant to the Act. Only the incremental taxes created by the Redevelopment Project will be captured to pay for the project's eligible public expenditures. Since the incremental taxes would not exist without the use of TIF to support the Redevelopment Project, the true tax shift of the Redevelopment Project is a positive shift in taxes after 15 years. However, for the purposes of illustrating the incremental taxes used for TIF, the estimated 15-year tax shift for the Redevelopment Project is set forth in Exhibit "E" of the Redevelopment Plan, and is adopted hereby.

Notes:

- 1. The Projected Tax Increment is based on assumed values and levy rates; actual amounts and rates will vary from those assumptions, and it is understood that the actual tax shift may vary materially from the projected amount. The levy rate is assumed to be the 2023 levy rate. There has been no accounting for incremental growth over the 15-year TIF period.*

2. Public infrastructure and community public service needs impacts and local tax impacts arising from the approval of the Redevelopment Project:

a. Public infrastructure improvements and impacts:

The Redevelopment Project requires public infrastructure installation. The Project Site will require the construction of vehicular access from, and extension of, 43rd Avenue, along with the construction and/or extension of utilities to serve the apartment buildings on the lot. The public improvements for the Redevelopment Project will address any traffic and street infrastructure concerns that would otherwise be created by the Redevelopment Project. The Project Site will be filled and graded to provide for effective surface water runoff. The Agency

and Redeveloper do not anticipate that the Redevelopment Project will have a negative impact on now-existing City infrastructure.

b. Local Tax impacts (in addition to impacts of Tax Shifts described above):

The Redevelopment Project should create material tax and other public revenue for the City and other local taxing jurisdictions. While the use of TIF will defer receipt of a majority of new ad valorem real property taxes generated by the Redevelopment Project, the Redevelopment Project should generate immediate tax growth for the City. The residents in the apartment complex will require and pay for City services. Additionally, the City will collect sales tax on a portion of the materials used for the Redevelopment Project. It is not anticipated that the Redevelopment Project will have any material adverse impact on such City services, but will generate revenue providing support for those services.

3. Impacts on employers and employees of firms locating or expanding within the boundaries of the Project Site:

The Redevelopment Project is residential in nature and will not result in new or expanded business within the Project Site. However, the Redevelopment Project will provide needed housing for the City's workforce, which will benefit both employers and employees. Additionally, it will provide a number of temporary construction jobs during development. Accordingly, it is anticipated that the Redevelopment Project will have a positive impact on employers and employees.

4. Impacts on other employers and employees within the City and the immediate area that is located outside of the boundaries of the Project Site:

The Redevelopment Project will provide needed housing for the City's workforce, which will benefit both employers and employees in the surrounding area. Additionally, the new residential development will result in increased foot traffic to the benefit of area businesses. Accordingly, the Redevelopment Project is anticipated to have a positive impact on surrounding employers and employees.

5. Impacts on student populations of school districts within the City:

The increase of population density within the Project Site may result in an increase in school-aged children within the related school districts. However, there is no indication that the schools within the district are unable to withstand an increase in enrollment proportionate to the size of the Redevelopment Project. The school district will not receive taxes from the residences built during the time the increased taxes are utilized to pay the TIF Indebtedness. However, the

school district has received state aid to education in the past. Part of the school aid formula involves assessed valuation in the school district. The valuation that generates the TIF payments is not included in the formula and does not count against the state aid that the school district would receive. Taxes on any increase in the base value of the land will benefit the school district. After the TIF indebtedness is paid, or at the end of the respective 15 years of division of taxes, whichever is sooner, the increased valuation from the residential construction will be available to the school district. As such, Redeveloper and the Agency do not anticipate a negative impact on school districts located within the boundaries of the area of the Redevelopment Project.

6. Other impacts determined by the Agency to be relevant to the consideration of costs and benefits arising from the redevelopment project:

The Redevelopment Project will revitalize and occupy a vacant space without negatively impacting the surrounding businesses, residents or straining the public infrastructure. There are no other material impacts determined by the Agency relevant to the consideration of the costs or benefits arising from the Redevelopment Project. As such, the costs of the Redevelopment Project are outweighed by its benefits.

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4. Building report for November 2024.



City of Columbus

Building Department

Phone: 402-562-4236 Email: CommDevPermits@columbusne.us
www.columbusne.us

November Building Report Comments

For the Residential area, permits were issued for four new single-family homes, one two-unit townhouse, and various residential alterations/additions. Additionally, several permits were granted for decks, fences, and accessory structures in November.

On the commercial side, permits have been issued for an alteration at Kramer Education, an alteration at 1304 14th street for steps, and an addition for Marker Enterprises. Plan reviews are under way for the Bank of Clarks renovation, Dollar General, the Puntney building, a UPS expansion, a distribution center, and an apartment complex that consisting of five buildings.

Andy Woehrer
Chief Building and Code Official
City of Columbus



City of Columbus

Building Department Monthly Report

12/02/2024

November 2024 2023

	November 2024			November 2023		
	Count	Permit Fees	Value	Count	Permit Fees	Value
Accessory Structure	3	\$707.25	\$139000.00	1	\$101.00	\$15000.00
Building Moving	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Com Addition	1	\$397.94	\$63700.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Com Alteration	2	\$5215.26	\$2202000.00	1	\$55.00	\$5000.00
Com New Constr	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Com Plumbing	1	\$37.00	\$15000.00	1	\$105.00	\$15000.00
Deck	4	\$307.72	\$37540.00	1	\$62.50	\$7000.00
Demolition	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	3	\$82.50	\$19300.00
Egress Window	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	1	\$0.00	\$3500.00
Fence	8	\$256.00	\$35500.00	8	\$236.00	\$31376.00
Gas line	3	\$96.00	\$1500.00	2	\$64.00	\$5000.00
Res Addition	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	2	\$653.77	\$117000.00
Res Addition Wo	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Res Alteration	4	\$822.03	\$138500.00	7	\$705.69	\$95327.00
Res New Construc	5	\$6771.33	\$2306436.00	4	\$3776.65	\$1192288.00
Res Plumbing	15	\$1594.00	\$161000.00	9	\$617.00	\$106600.00
Res Pool	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Signs	1	\$37.00	\$3000.00	7	\$259.00	\$22750.00
Sprinklers	2	\$44.00	\$10000.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Temporary Acces	1	\$0.00	\$4500.00	1	\$0.00	\$4500.00
Water Softner/RC	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Wireless TeleCom	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Wireless Tower	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
YEAR TOTAL	50	\$16285.53	\$5117676.00	48	\$6718.11	\$1639641.00

Population: All Records
 Permit.DateIssued Between 11/1/2023 12:00:00 AM
 AND 11/30/2024 11:59:59 PM

5. Adjournment.