



PLANNING COMMISSION

Department of Planning • P.O. Box 27210 • Tucson, AZ 85726-7210

DATE: April 3, 2002

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: *W. Vasko*
William D. Vasko, Executive Secretary

SUBJECT: Large Retail Establishments ("Big Box") Ordinance Review - Subcommittee Update

Issue – This is an update on the subject ordinance review.

Background – On March 6, 2002, the Planning Commission established a subcommittee to review the "big box" ordinance. Three members of the Planning Commission, Rob Tomlinson, Grace Evans, and Bob Morgan, were appointed to the subcommittee. The Planning Commission also decided to establish four additional subcommittee memberships, two representing neighborhood perspectives and two representing business/developer perspectives. In addition, the Planning Commission asked the subcommittee to develop a scope and timetable for the review.

Subcommittee Update – The three Planning Commission members, Planning Department staff, two prospective subcommittee members, a council office representative, and an interested person met on March 14, 2002. The Planning Commission members of the subcommittee voted to recommend that Mary Beth Savel, Thomas Saylor-Brown, and Joyce Joosten be appointed by the full Planning Commission to the subcommittee, subject to City Attorney review and approval of the proposed members. The City Attorney has reviewed the list of proposed members and recommends against the appointment of Ms. Savel (see attached). Based on that recommendation, Mr. Tomlinson is in the process of recruiting another representative of the business community to serve. The subcommittee also discussed the appointment of a member from the neighborhood adjoining the proposed Lowe's on North Oracle Road. A verbal recommendation will be made regarding additional subcommittee members at the Planning Commission meeting.

The subcommittee proposes to meet weekly, every Thursday from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the Himmel Library, April through May. It projects a return to the Planning Commission with a recommendation in study session in June, public hearing in July, and a tentative public hearing before the Mayor and Council in August. The subcommittee members have determined that they will review all of the aspects of the ordinance, as well as ordinances from other communities, and they will ask staff to arrange for speakers at the meetings to discuss their perspectives on the existing ordinance.

Large Retail Establishments ("Big Box") Ordinance Review –
Subcommittee Update

Subcommittee Recommendation – It is recommended that the Planning Commission appoint Thomas Saylor-Brown and Joyce Joosten to the subcommittee. In addition, two additional members may be identified at the Planning Commission meeting and should be appointed, subject to review by the City Attorney.

WDV:SSM\s:/coderev/Big Box Review Subcommittee/PC update 040302.doc

Attachment:

Letter from Michael McCrory, City Attorney's Office