MINUTES CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL ST. CHARLES PLAN COMMISSION TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2011 – 7:00 P.M.

Members Present: Todd Wallace, Chairman

Tim Kessler, Vice Chairman/Secretary

Brian Doyle Curt Henningson Thomas Pretz Tom Schuetz

Members Absent: Sue Amatangelo

Also Present: Rita Tungare, Community Development Director

Russell Colby, Planner Matthew O'Rourke, Planner

Colleen Johnson, Recording Secretary

Sonntag Court Reporter

1. Call to order

A meeting of the St. Charles Plan Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Wallace.

3. Presentation of Minutes

Mr. Kessler made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2011 and June 7, 2011 meetings. Mr. Pretz seconded the motion.

Voice Vote:

Ayes: Schuetz, Pretz, Henningson, Kessler, Wallace

Nays: None Abstained: Doyle Absent: Amatangelo

Motion Carried.

CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING

4. General Amendment (St. Charles Park District)

Application for General Amendment to Chapters 17.12 "Residential Districts", 17.14 "Business and Mixed Use Districts", 17.16 "Office/Research, Manufacturing, and Public Land Districts", and 17.22 "General Provisions" pertaining to the permitting and placement of Small Wind Energy Turbine Devices

The transcript received and prepared by Sonntag Reporting Service, Ltd., is by reference hereby made a part of these minutes.

Mr. Kessler made a motion to close the public hearing. Mr. Pretz seconded the motion.

Voice Vote:

Ayes: Schuetz, Pretz, Henningson, Doyle, Kessler, Wallace

Nays: None

Absent: Amatangelo

Motion Carried.

MEETING

5. General Amendment (St. Charles Park District)

Application for General Amendment to Chapters 17.12 "Residential Districts", 17.14 "Business and Mixed Use Districts", 17.16 "Office/Research, Manufacturing, and Public Land Districts", and 17.22 "General Provisions" pertaining to the permitting and placement of Small Wind Energy Turbine Devices

Mr. Kessler discussed a motion to recommend approval for the non-residential district portion of the wind energy application and to table the residential portion. He referred to the staff report recommendation option #3 where the general amendment application would apply to all except the residential districts and CBD1 and CBD2, and that those will be addressed at a future date. Mr. Kessler noted option 3 entails staff applying for a second general amendment, and he asked if they were doing that.

(8:20 p.m. the meeting was temporarily interrupted by a tornado siren)

(8:32 p.m. The Plan Commission meeting resumed in the lower level of City Hall)

Mr. Kessler made a motion to recommend approval of the non-residential portion of the General Amendment Application to Title 17, Chapter 17.14 Business and Mixed Use Districts; Chapter 17.16 Office/Research, Manufacturing, and Public Land Districts; Chapter 17.22 General Provisions pertaining to permitting and placement of Small Wind Energy Turbine Devices based upon the Findings of Fact, Option #3 of the Staff Report dated 6/17/11, and the following condition being addressed prior to final City Council action:

- Application for a second General Amendment for both tower-mounted and structuremounted wind turbines in residential districts and the downtown districts be tabled to a later date

Mr. Doyle asked for clarification on the motion and discussed considering Option #1 because there would be the ability to install micro structure mounted wind turbines in the residential districts. Mr. Kessler stated he wants time to research appropriate ordinance restrictions and needs more information on aesthetics in residential areas.

Voice Vote:

Ayes: Schuetz, Pretz, Doyle, Henningson, Kessler, Wallace

Nays: None

Absent: Amatangelo

Motion Carried.

6. Delnor Woods PUD (The Collins Group)(East of the intersection of Iroquois Avenue and North Fifth Avenue)

Application for Final Plat

- Final Plat received 5/27/11
- Delnor Woods PUD Ordinance

Mr. Colby reviewed the staff report dated 6/17/11 and stated staff recommended approval.

Mr. Kessler made a motion to recommend approval of the Delnor Woods PUD application for Final Plat received 5/27/11. Mr. Henningson seconded the motion.

Voice Vote:

Ayes: Pretz, Wallace, Kessler, Doyle, Henningson, Schuetz

Nays: None

Absent: Amatangelo

Motion Carried.

7. Meeting Announcements

Plan Commission Tuesday, July 5, 2011 at 7:00pm at 112 N. Riverside – Century Station **Plan Commission** Tuesday, July 19, 2011 at 7:00pm in the City Council Chambers **Plan Commission** Tuesday, August 2, 2011 at 7:00pm in the City Council Chambers

8. Additional Business from Plan Commission Members, Staff, or Citizens

Mr. Colby updated the Commission on the Comprehensive Plan Task Force process and meeting schedule. Ms. Tungare encouraged the Commission members to attend as many Task Force meetings and workshops as possible. Mr. Schuetz asked how Task Force meeting information will be distributed for residents and Commission members. Mr. Colby said newsletters, press releases, mail inserts, along with posting on the website will be done. Commission members also suggested e-mail notification and an organized phone tree approach, similar to how past focus group information was distributed. Mr. Kessler asked if focus groups will be conducted. Ms. Tungare said they will be conducted and staff is currently looking at locations to hold the sessions. Mr. Colby advised that the first Task Force meeting will be held Wednesday, June 29th at 7:00pm in Dens A and B at City Hall. Ms. Tungare said the consultant from Houseal Lavigne will also attend the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:53p.m.

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              STATE OF ILLINOIS
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              COUNTY OF K A N E
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              BEFORE THE CITY OF ST. CHARLES PLAN COMMISSION
 6
             In Re the Matter of:
 7
             General Amendment (St. Charles
 8
             Park District) Application for
             General Amendment to
 9
             Chapter 17.12, "Residential
             Districts," Chapter 17.14,
10
             "Business and Mixed Use
             Districts," 17.16, "Office/
11
             Research, Manufacturing, and
             Public Land Districts," and
12
             17.22, "General Provisions"
             pertaining to the permitting
13
             and placement of Small Wind
             Energy Turbine Devices.
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15
                    CONTINUED REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had at the
16
              hearing of the above-entitled matter, before the
17
              City of St. Charles Plan Commission, taken in the
18
              offices of City of St. Charles, 2 East Main Street,
19
              St. Charles, Illinois, on June 21, 2011, at the
20
              hour of 7:03 p.m.
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22
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CHAIRMAN WALLACE: This meeting of
2 the St. Charles Plan Commission will come to
3 order.
4 Tim, roll call.
5 VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Doyle?
6 MEMBER DOYLE: Here.
7 VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Schuetz?
8 MEMBER SCHUETZ: Yes.
9 VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Pretz?
10 MEMBER PRETZ: Here.
VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Henningson?
12 MEMBER HENNINGSON: Yes.
13 VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Wallace?
14 CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Yes.
15 VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Kessler,
16 here.
17 CHAIRMAN WALLACE: All right.
18 Item No. 3 on the agenda is presentation of
19 the minutes of the May 17th, 2011, and June 7th,
20 2011, meetings.
VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Move to
22 approve.
23 MEMBER SCHUETZ: Second.
24 CHAIRMAN WALLACE: It's been moved

1 and seconded. 2 Any discussion on the motion? 3 MEMBER DOYLE: I will abstain since I 4 was not present at the prior meetings. 5 CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Okay. Does that 6 mean we have to do a roll call vote? 7 MEMBER DOYLE: I don't know. I'm 8 just 9 CHAIRMAN WALLACE: I don't know. All 10 right. 11 All in favor? 12 (The ayes were thereupon heard.) 13 CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Opposed? 14 (No response.) 15 CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Abstaining?
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7 MEMBER DOYLE: I don't know. I'm 8 just 9 CHAIRMAN WALLACE: I don't know. All 10 right. 11 All in favor? 12 (The ayes were thereupon heard.) 13 CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Opposed? 14 (No response.)
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9 CHAIRMAN WALLACE: I don't know. All 10 right. 11 All in favor? 12 (The ayes were thereupon heard.) 13 CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Opposed? 14 (No response.)
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11 All in favor? 12 (The ayes were thereupon heard.) 13 CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Opposed? 14 (No response.)
12 (The ayes were thereupon heard.) 13 CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Opposed? 14 (No response.)
13 CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Opposed? 14 (No response.)
14 (No response.)
(ne response.)
15 CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Abstaining?
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16 MEMBER DOYLE: Abstain. Doyle
17 abstains.
18 CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Okay. Thank you.
19 Item No. 4 on the agenda is General
20 Amendment, St. Charles Park District this is a
21 continued public hearing application for
22 General Amendment to Chapter 17.12, "Residential
23 Districts," 17.14, "Business and Mixed-Use
24 Districts, "17.16, "Office/Research,

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1	Manufacturing, and Public Land District," and
2	17.22, "General Provisions" pertaining to the
3	permitting and placement of Small Wind Energy
4	Turbine Devices.
5	Since this is a continued public hearing
6	from last time, if there's anyone who is here in
7	the room who was previously sworn in would now
8	continue to be under oath.
9	If there's anyone who was not previously
10	sworn in who wishes to speak, if you will let me
11	know and I will swear you in.
12	(No response.)
13	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Matt, are you
14	ready?
15	MR. O'ROURKE: Yes, I'm ready.
16	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: All right. Go
17	ahead.
18	MR. O'ROURKE: Okay. Good evening,
19	everybody.
20	At the last public hearing, we discussed a
21	lot of research and kind of analysis that staff
22	went into in formulating this general amendment
23	for wind turbines.
24	I think one of the primary comments that

106 1 came out of the discussion here with the 2 Plan Commission was that there was some concern 3 that maybe there was some more information needed and more time to consider how these types of devices would be either allowed and/or considered 6 in residential areas and in downtown areas. 7 Things there are more dense and it's a little more tricky to figure out just how to locate 8 9 these devices. 10 So there was a number of items discussed, 11 and one of the things was possibly some more time 12 to consider the wind turbines in residential and 13 downtown districts, and that after that meeting 14 staff went back and thought about the discussion 15 and looked at the proposed ordinance, and kind 16 of what we have done tonight is put together 17 three options for the Plan Commission to consider. 18 One of them we'll get into in some detail, 19 but the basic idea was that we wanted to -- we 20 wanted to have a more thorough discussion now 21 since the information was out there and fresh in everyone's mind, and staff is here presenting 22 23 this and we have everybody ready to do it, so we 24 want to be sure we've covered all of our bases

107 1 before we decided to continue any part of the 2 public hearing to a later date. 3 With that being said, the first option is 4 identical to the option that was already 5 presented at the last meeting, if that would be 6 the ultimate way the Plan Commission would decide 7 to go. So none of -- the text in the ordinance 8 hasn't changed, but we looked at some pros and 9 cons of this option. 10 Excuse me. 11 This does allow for wind turbines in 12 one form or another in all zoning districts, 13 whether they be structure-mounted or both. 14 there. 15 It does -- the intent of the option was to 16 limit the impacts to surrounding property owners. 17 Staff was trying to be somewhat mindful -- not 18 everybody wants one of these in their backyard, 19 so in trying to come up with a decent mix of 20 allowing it but not overallowing it, for lack of 21 a better term. 22 The cons to this is it does restrict 23 residential property owners to the structure-24 mounted turbines, and it does so in a way that

108 1 kind of limits their access to nonturbulent wind. 2 Option 2 is probably the most generous of 3 all the options. What we've done is revised it to say that 5 the tower-mounted turbines would be allowed in 6 special uses in all residential districts. devices do have to follow the setback requirements listed in Option 1, which means they 9 have to be set back the height of the tower from 10 the property line plus 10 feet. 11 The tower-mounted turbines would be allowed 12 in -- or not -- excuse me -- they will not be 13 allowed in downtown districts. Staff took a real 14 long, hard look at this, and when you think about 15 the -- the characteristics of the properties and 16 the buildings in downtown, there really is no 17 good place to do it based on the analysis that 18 staff did and presented at the previous meeting. 19 Everything is just a little too dense for the 20 towers. 21 One other change that we made in this 22 option is that the height of the structure-mounted turbines in the residential 23 24 districts would be allowed up to 10 feet taller

109 1 than the highest structure on the property, which 2 means, if it's sitting on the peak of a roof, it 3 could go up 10 feet above that, so that would give it a little more access to wind instead of 5 being blocked from view of the public street and 6 be limited to a height below. 7 The pros and cons of this particular 8 option, it does allow for the wind turbines in 9 all the zoning districts. It's easier to situate 10 these devices in nonturbulent wind. 11 Some of the cons we looked at were 12 increased potential to create nuisances to 13 surrounding property owners, increased visibility 14 of the turbines in residential districts, and not 15 all residents will want a tower-mounted turbine, 16 so it does have that side-effect. 17 Option 3 was an option primarily discussed 18 at the last Plan Commission meeting, where staff 19 would bring forward a second general amendment at 20 a later date if the Plan Commission feels that 21 they need more time to figure out how the impacts 22 in the residential areas would play out. 23 Some pros and cons of this are that it 24 would allow you more time to consider the impact.

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1	It does allow the turbines in nonresidential
2	districts, but we are still moving forward with
3	that section of the amendment.
4	Some of the cons is, there would be an
5	increase in staff time, in terms of proposing
6	staff materials, doing more research. There
7	won't be any standards in place for residential
8	and downtown districts until a later date, and
9	this this last one is I've been researching
10	these for two years. I've attended a number of
11	conferences, Web conferences; I've been to open
12	houses; I have done a lot of research. The
13	information has not changed that much in
14	two years, except for the different types of
15	technology evolved slightly since then, but in
16	the next three to six months, I don't see the
17	background information changing a real lot, so we
18	would have more time to weigh out that
19	information to be used in residential districts,
20	but I don't see the information itself changing,
21	so I just wanted to make sure we all were kind of
22	on that same page.
23	And that is the end of staff's formal
24	presentation. We are recommending approval of

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1	the general amendment tonight, and we placed this
2	on the meeting portion of the agenda for a vote
3	and have proposed recommended findings of fact to
4	that matter.
5	Staff is not stating which one of these
6	options they feel is best. They all do
7	accomplish the goal of allowing wind turbines;
8	it's just which way everybody feels more
9	comfortable allowing them at this time.
10	And I'll take any questions or comments
11	that you have.
12	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: I just have a
13	question, and maybe this is more for Rita.
14	What option I mean, based on our
15	discussion last time, we tended towards
16	Option 3 just because of the we felt that we
17	needed to digest the information for the
18	residential and downtown areas.
19	But do you foresee a problem having
20	sufficient staff time within the next six months
21	in order to deal with with that portion of it,
22	because I knew it would be an additional
23	application?
24	MS. TUNGARE: It's a good question.

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1	Quite honestly, based on all the research
2	Matt has done and has been doing extensive
3	research on this for about a year and a half
4	is that correct?
5	MR. O'ROURKE: A year and a half to
6	two years, somewhere around there.
7	MS. TUNGARE: A year and a half to
8	two years and really extensive research, and what
9	he has presented is pretty much what is out there
10	today, so I don't see anything increasing
11	substantially what he has presented in terms
12	of research or additional data in the next
13	six months.
14	If if the Plan Commission decides not to
15	move forward with an amendment for residential,
16	my advice would then be that we table the
17	residential piece so that we put that aside for
18	at least a year. Bringing it back in six months
19	is is really not going to provide any
20	information and additional data, and from my
21	standpoint, there is there's also the
22	administrative side of things, the administrative
23	costs, you know, the staff time and and costs
24	that are incurred; you know, doing the work,

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1	publishing of a notice, a legal notice, bringing
2	it back before the Plan Commission.
3	So if the Plan Commission is leaning
4	towards adopting regulations for nonresidential
5	at this point and deferring residential, I would
6	defer it for at least a year at this point.
7	Matt has pretty much presented everything
8	that's out there.
9	My suggestion is with an amendment like
10	this general amendment, it's pretty much we are
11	pioneers, so to speak, in this area. Kane County
12	has adopted some regulations, but if we look at
13	other communities in our vicinity, I don't
14	believe anyone else has adopted regulations
15	recently.
16	Matt, is that correct?
17	MR. O'ROURKE: Batavia is the only
18	other community that has one, but they their
19	ordinance has been in effect for some time. It's
20	kind of outdated when you look at it.
21	MS. TUNGARE: Okay. So having said
22	that having said that, we have to start
23	somewhere, and and if we're going to adopt
24	regulations, that I would rather adopt them in

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1	the form that staff has proposed, whereby, for
2	the residential, we are really being conservative
3	and discrete, because we don't know what impact
4	it will have on surrounding property. It's best
5	to start small. We can always revise those
6	regulations in about a year and see where
7	where things are at.
8	MEMBER SCHUETZ: I have a question.
9	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Yes.
10	MEMBER SCHUETZ: You had mentioned
11	Batavia has adopted some regulations.
12	What about some of the larger cities around
13	here like Naperville or Wheaton or Glen Ellyn
14	or
15	MR. O'ROURKE: As far as I know, I
16	looked at a lot of those communities that we
17	would consider comparable, and I didn't I
18	could not find any.
19	The big 800-pound gorilla is the City of
20	Chicago. They have allowed these in a variety of
21	ways. They're one of the as far as bigger
22	cities, they're one of the better examples that
23	are out there, but, to be honest, there just
24	haven't been a lot of communities in the Chicago

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1	area that have come forward with an ordinance
2	like this.
3	MEMBER SCHUETZ: Well, if we're going
4	to vote on the residential, I guess I'm a little
5	unclear about the acre lot and all that kind of
6	thing.
7	MR. O'ROURKE: In terms of
8	residential uses specifically?
9	MEMBER SCHUETZ: Right.
10	MR. O'ROURKE: Basically, all any
11	tower in a residential area would have to meet
12	the same standards that were presented last time,
13	so it would have to be on a lot that's a minimum
14	of an acre. Even in a residential area, it would
15	be a special use.
16	MEMBER SCHUETZ: For a freestanding
17	tower?
18	MR. O'ROURKE: For a freestanding
19	tower.
20	For the structure-mounted towers, there's
21	no there's no lot size limitation.
22	MEMBER SCHUETZ: But an acre is not
23	that big.
24	MR. O'ROURKE: An acre is based on

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1	staff's analysis of the bare minimum that you
2	could really have to adequately try to site one
3	of these types of devices.
4	MEMBER SCHUETZ: Well, I live on just
5	about an acre, and and I don't think that's
6	big for a tower.
7	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: And it would
8	exclude at least over half the lots in town.
9	MEMBER SCHUETZ: Oh, at least. But
10	if you go north of town, there are a lot of lots
11	that are that size.
12	MR. O'ROURKE: I think that's it
13	could be true.
14	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: If you have a
15	70-by-150-foot lot, you're not going to get much
16	of a tower on that property.
17	MR. O'ROURKE: No. It wouldn't be
18	very tall.
19	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: I think it's
20	interesting that, you know, what you bring up and
21	I think it's important to consider.
22	I also think that, you know, as you say, we
23	are pioneers in this and this is a huge,
24	important issue in any kind of renewable energy

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1	ordinance that we're passing, and I know you've
2	spent a lot of time on it, and I do believe
3	you're right that probably the technology and the
4	engineering of it isn't going to change
5	significantly, if at all, in the next three to
6	six months, but I think there's other issues,
7	particularly residential areas, restricting it so
8	that no in-town lots are possible to have a
9	freestanding, you could only have
10	structure-mounted, and you have a limit to how
11	high you can put it.
12	But if you're in town and you're in an
13	older neighborhood and you have nothing but trees
14	around you, forget it. It's just not possible,
15	and I don't think that that's what we're trying
16	to promote here.
17	I think I think you're trying to and,
18	you know, you're you're I think you're
19	trying to embrace this in some way, but what
20	we're doing is, we're eliminating most most of
21	town. It's going to work on a commercial
22	property and some big lots somewhere outside of
23	town and that's it.
24	So I I'm not so sure I agree that we

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1	should just, you know, keep this restrictive and
2	then someday revisit it again, because we've been
3	doing this we have been restrictive in
4	renewable energy in this country for 20 years or
5	longer, and we've got to quit doing it. We've
6	got to just, you know, make the commitment to it,
7	and I don't think you know, I don't think that
8	it's "Let's just try this and see if it works."
9	I think I would go for Option 3, where
10	we go ahead I think we've got the plan in
11	place for the commercial, and I think we need to
12	spend a little more time you know, we do,
13	perhaps and come to you with some ideas on how
14	to better incorporate this type of renewable
15	energy into the residential districts that we
16	don't have now and we won't have even if we pass
17	the ordinance in the first form. We just won't
18	have it.
19	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: And, I mean, are
20	you talking along the lines of us actually, you
21	know, possibly forming a subcommittee of the
22	Plan Commission to look at this?
23	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Yep.
24	In fact, I was I was asking, you know,

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1	earlier, you know, what kind of outside and,
2	you know, I know you've spent a lot time, Matt,
3	going to different, you know, Web seminars and
4	you've talked with people, but my question was
5	somewhat pointed. Who who is you know,
6	there's got to be people who could advise us.
7	Right away I know Gordon. I mean, he
8	worked in this industry with the Department of
9	Energy for a long time, and perhaps just, you
10	know, maybe we should come to you with some other
11	options for this, and maybe a subcommittee is the
12	way to go, but I think it's that important.
13	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Oh, I agree, and I
14	don't I mean, I don't want any of at least my
15	comments from last time to be construed as not
16	wanting this option available in residential.
17	I just I mean, I want it to be in the
18	most practical form possible, you know, and
19	that's that's I mean, that's the reason for
20	my for me, it's it's not I mean, I I
21	appreciate I think you've done a great job in
22	looking at this.
23	MR. O'ROURKE: Thank you.
24	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: I know that you

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1	have all the information. It's just I mean,
2	it's it's almost more a matter of, you know, I
3	want us to be able to digest the information, as
4	well, because I do think that it's important.
5	MEMBER SCHUETZ: Will we like Tim
6	says exclude not intentionally but most
7	of the people in town because the trees are
8	large, the lots are small? What are our I
9	mean, I I agree.
10	What are our options?
11	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Well and I
12	can't well, under the proposed Option 1, at
13	least in my area of town there would not be a lot
14	that I can think of that would be appropriate,
15	you know?
16	MEMBER SCHUETZ: There's got to be
17	some cities that have done something.
18	MR. O'ROURKE: Just based on
19	everything I looked at, you just don't see towers
20	in dense neighborhoods for a variety of reasons
21	because, one, the physical characteristics aren't
22	conducive to wind energy; and, two, because of
23	all these other property issues that you run into
24	with having them you know, nuisances,

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1	attractive nuisances, you know, whether people
2	just don't want them in their backyard all
3	those things that staff really did try to
4	create a balance on that.
5	MEMBER SCHUETZ: Maybe somebody
6	maybe because you're all waiting for some other
7	city to do something.
8	MEMBER DOYLE: Can I I have a
9	couple of questions here.
10	So the difference between Option 1 and
11	Option 2 is the matter of 10 feet on the
12	residential property; correct?
13	MR. O'ROURKE: No. The biggest
14	difference between Options 1 and 2 is that
15	Option 2 does allow tower-mounted turbines in
16	residential districts as a special use, but they
17	do have to meet the the use standards that the
18	previous option had set up.
19	MEMBER DOYLE: Correct.
20	MR. O'ROURKE: Which is a minimum
21	1-acre lot, you know, to start with, and from
22	there on.
23	MEMBER DOYLE: Didn't it also say
24	that the maximum height would be no greater than

12
1 10 feet above the top of the structure?
2 MR. O'ROURKE: Those are the
3 structure-mounted specifically.
4 MEMBER DOYLE: Okay.
5 MR. O'ROURKE: So one that's mounted
6 on the roof of the home.
7 MEMBER DOYLE: So Option 2 would
8 allow tower-mounted turbines on 1-acre properties
9 provided that they meet all the setbacks?
10 MR. O'ROURKE: Yes. In virtually all
11 the zoning districts except downtown.
12 MEMBER DOYLE: Okay. And so the
13 question I have about that, let me the height
14 that's required, based on your introduction about
15 siting and wind, states that you have to be at
16 least 30 feet above 500 feet away, 30 feet
17 above the any
18 MR. O'ROURKE: Sure.
19 MEMBER DOYLE: major obstacles;
20 trees, structures, et cetera?
MR. O'ROURKE: This diagram, I think,
22 explains it really well.
23 MEMBER DOYLE: Right.
24 So I just want to make sure we're clear,

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1	we're talking about towers that if the
2	what's the average height of a tree in a
3	residential neighborhood?
4	MR. O'ROURKE: Boy, this would be a
5	pure guess but about 50 feet.
6	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: I have 50-,
7	60-foot trees in my yard.
8	MEMBER DOYLE: Okay. So we're
9	talking about towers that potentially are
10	100 feet tall.
11	MR. O'ROURKE: 120 seems to be the
12	maximum.
13	MEMBER DOYLE: Up to 120 is the
14	maximum?
15	MR. O'ROURKE: Yes.
16	MEMBER DOYLE: Which is different,
17	you know?
18	The reason that's why I brought up the
19	10 feet because I thought that Option 2 was
20	saying basically that you could have a
21	pole-mounted turbine on on your structure up
22	to the difference between the basically 10 feet.
23	But now I understand you're talking
24	about

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1	MR. O'ROURKE: Right.
2	MEMBER DOYLE: free-standing
3	pole-mounted turbines, as well.
4	I a couple of questions.
5	One point just in terms of your definition.
6	I know you used a kilowatt. You say that
7	structure-mounted don't shall not exceed
8	100 kilowatts and tower-mounted shall not exceed
9	10 kilowatts.
10	Are those inverted? Because
11	MR. O'ROURKE: It's not. It's
12	one should be "kila" and one should be "kilo."
13	MEMBER DOYLE: Okay.
14	MR. O'ROURKE: It's something I have
15	to fix.
16	MEMBER DOYLE: Okay. So the point
17	is, though, that the tower-mounted turbines
18	provide more power?
19	MR. O'ROURKE: Yes.
20	MEMBER DOYLE: Okay.
21	MR. O'ROURKE: They're larger and
22	they are, by definition, to be to have more
23	energy capacity.
24	MEMBER DOYLE: And I didn't see

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1	anything in here about for structure-mounted
2	turbines that provide is it "kila" or "kilo"?
3	MR. O'ROURKE: For the
4	structure-mounted, it would be "kilo."
5	MEMBER DOYLE: Kilo. Okay.
6	What's the benefit, in terms of energy
7	conservation, to a household for a micro turbine?
8	How would we quantify the benefit?
9	MR. O'ROURKE: You know, there was a
10	gentleman here last time that that had a much
11	better explanation for that than I can.
12	But what you can ultimately count on, you
13	would never generate enough power to run your
14	home. It would be more about slowing your meter
15	down.
16	MEMBER DOYLE: And so even a
17	structure-mounted even a structure-mounted
18	turbine at 20 feet, does it still have the
19	potential to facilitate energy conservation?
20	MR. O'ROURKE: It would, yeah.
21	MEMBER DOYLE: It would. It wouldn't
22	be as effective
23	MR. O'ROURKE: It's not as effective.
24	MEMBER DOYLE: as the

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1	tower-mounted that's 100 feet tall.
2	MR. O'ROURKE: And a lot of that is
3	based on the kind of turbine. The vertical axis
4	ones are much more they have a better ability
5	to use urban wind, as they call it, instead of
6	regular you know, the ones we're all used to.
7	MEMBER DOYLE: Okay. One more
8	question in terms of facts.
9	In Option 2 you state that tower-mounted
10	turbines in residential areas would need to meet
11	all the requirements in Option 1 for business and
12	commercial. Included in this setback, in
13	addition to 100 percent of the tower height plus
14	10 feet, is another provision that says, "and a
15	500-foot setback from any residential district."
16	MR. O'ROURKE: Right.
17	MEMBER DOYLE: So if you're in a
18	residential district, obviously, does the
19	500-foot setback just not apply?
20	MR. O'ROURKE: That standard was
21	meant only for when commercial districts abut
22	residential districts.
23	MEMBER DOYLE: Okay. So once you're
24	in a residential district obviously you're there.

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1	MR. O'ROURKE: Right.
2	And part of that was the nature of in
3	certain nonresidential districts this is going to
4	be allowed as a permitted use; in residential
5	districts it would be strictly a special use,
6	so there would be a review each time one of
7	these goes up by the Plan Commission and the
8	City Council, so the 500-foot was put in more of
9	a general guideline for those districts because
10	of that they could just show up one day.
11	MEMBER DOYLE: Mr. Chairman, may I
12	make a couple of comments now.
13	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Yes.
14	MEMBER DOYLE: Okay. So as far as
15	the three options, I guess my thoughts are, I
16	I agree with Rita that Option 2 is a less
17	conservative option and there are a lot of
18	unanswered questions about the impact, and that
19	would be preferable between Option 2 and
20	Option 1 preferable to go with Option 1 to
21	start.
22	My concern about Option 3 is that I think
23	that, if we table this, it is going to get tabled
24	indefinitely for residential use. It's not going

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1	to come back to us and we're going to miss an
2	opportunity to take a step forward.
3	My question about does a micro turbine
4	provide any benefit to the homeowner to
5	facilitate energy conservation? Are we giving
6	the homeowner anything in Option 1? And the
7	answer is yes, we are.
8	It's up to the individual homeowner or
9	property owner to determine if the benefits
10	justify the expense, but they still have that
11	option to determine whether or not they want
12	to to do this, and if we are pioneering this,
13	it seems that we're making a balanced statement
14	about taking a step forward but being cautiously
15	optimistic about the impacts versus delaying
16	action potentially indefinitely, unless, Todd,
17	you're correct, that the Commission itself really
18	needs more time for analysis, that we have all
19	the information, we just don't have the time
20	right now to analyze it.
21	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Well and one of
22	the things that we asked last time was whether we
23	would be able to table the entire application,
24	and and the reasoning for that is because

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1	there's one specific use that the at one of
2	the parks, whether it's dependent upon grant
3	funds. You know, they need to be moving.
4	MEMBER DOYLE: Uh-huh.
5	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: So that was really
6	our our reason for wanting to split it up, you
7	know, to we to allow them to move forward
8	with that, with that portion of it so
9	MS. TUNGARE: Mr. Chairman, can I
10	make a couple of comments
11	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Yes.
12	MS. TUNGARE: to supplement what
13	Commissioner Doyle just said?
14	Something to take into consideration is, if
15	we move forward with a general amendment for
16	residential in some way, shape, or form, it gives
17	us an opportunity to educate and provide an
18	exposure to the community and for our residents.
19	If we do nothing, a year from now we might
20	be in the same boat and have the same discussion.
21	If we move forward even with the roof-mounted
22	equipment, people get some exposure. There's a
23	little bit of education there. There's a little
24	bit of interest from other community members,

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1	and and and what that does is, there's more
2	of an increase and an interest in being more
3	environmentally sensitive.
4	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: But I don't
5	I mean, I don't agree with that. I I don't
6	with all due respect I don't agree because,
7	you know, yeah, it's going to create you know,
8	it's going to create interest because we've
9	recommended to the City Council to put, you know,
10	an ordinance into place to allow it, but I think
11	that we can also create interest by having I
12	mean, if even if it doesn't involve additional
13	work by the staff, I think there are a number of
14	us that are interested in this, you know, to
15	to do a public forum or something like that.
16	I I know that the attitude of a lot of
17	people a lot of citizens you know, us all
18	being citizens if we we have anger about
19	"All of a sudden an ordinance goes into place
20	that we didn't have any input or any idea about,"
21	and I'm saying that it's our responsibility to do
22	that, but I think that this is something we all
23	agree is important enough where it you know,
24	it could be publicized, and I don't think it's

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1	the intent of anyone to sweep it under the rug
2	and you know, and not deal with it.
3	I don't know. I mean, I don't know. That
4	was my intent anyway.
5	MEMBER SCHUETZ: If we're to look at
6	Option 1 and move that ahead, it would give the
7	opportunity for the park to get their grant; is
8	that correct?
9	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Any of these
10	options.
11	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Any of these
12	options.
13	MR. O'ROURKE: All three options
14	allow that to happen.
15	MEMBER SCHUETZ: Okay.
16	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Option 1 basically
17	is as presented. There would be structure
18	structure-mounted turbines would be allowed in
19	the residential areas.
20	Option 2 would allow and would be even
21	more expansive and allow tower-mounted as a
22	special use and would allow them to be higher
23	than the structure-mounted would in Option 1.
24	MR. O'ROURKE: Yes.

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1	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: And Option 3 would
2	basically it would well, it would table the
3	residential and the and the CBD-1 and 2 portions
4	of of the
5	MEMBER SCHUETZ: What's the danger of
6	going with Option 1 and then we we revisit it?
7	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Because we
8	won't revisit it.
9	But I'm curious about something. I'm
10	curious about something.
11	When we spoke last week, we weren't
12	one second.
13	We we were pretty clear that this wasn't
14	going to be just tabled indefinitely. We would
15	expect that this would come back to us in a in
16	a period of time that we said it would come back
17	to us, so it's not going to go away.
18	And that brings up another thing Rita said.
19	I don't know if you have ever had an opportunity
20	to use it, but, you know, we had that whole
21	facilitation group here in St. Charles, and there
22	was a really good point made about advertising
23	you know, letting residents know that this is
24	something that the Planning Department was

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1	interested in wanting to do.
2	I don't know why we can't over the next
3	three months have Brian Townsend and the focus
4	group we have all those people in place, and I
5	don't know if anybody has been used for any
6	period of time.
7	MS. TUNGARE: I don't know which
8	group you're referring to specifically.
9	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: In about
10	1999, there was a group of a dozen citizens
11	and I think there's 16 of them now who were
12	trained by Arthur Andersen to facilitate focus
13	groups for the City of St. Charles.
14	Arthur Andersen trained all of them and we
15	held I can't tell you how many focus groups
16	on different topics that were important and
17	relevant to the City among residents from all
18	over town, and people volunteered for it, and I'm
19	pretty sure Brian Townsend knows about this, and
20	there are a number of facilitators I was a
21	facilitator there's a number of facilitators
22	still around that could do a focus group which
23	would draw attention to this issue, would get
24	input from residents on what their expectations

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1	are and desires are in this area, and give folks
2	outside or give the Plan Commission some, you
3	know, input other than the technical things that
4	Matt has so diligently worked on.
5	MEMBER DOYLE: A question for both
6	Plan Commissioners and for the staff.
7	For the Plan Commissioners, do any of you
8	who are vying to be less restrictive know people
9	in the community who you've heard, you know, say
10	or express interest in in placing a
11	tower-mounted turbine on their property?
12	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: I've had a
13	lot of discussion with many people about
14	renewable energy on their property, not
15	specifically tower-mounted wind turbines, but,
16	yes, there are many people interested in that
17	topic, and I think the focus here is
18	specifically, you know, wind energy but
19	MEMBER DOYLE: Well, I just the
20	question that I was going to ask staff was if
21	they had any inquiries about tower-mounted
22	turbines in residential properties, and, I mean,
23	can we substantiate in any way that there is a
24	public interest in in such an ordinance? Or

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1	do we have to go out and solicit that public
2	interest to to you know, I mean, if we have
3	to go out and beat the bushes, then I'm not
4	you know, that that might be a point of
5	concern for me, but if we're responding to
6	interest that comes up from the public, that's a
7	little different matter.
8	MR. O'ROURKE: The and I can
9	state I can't tell you for the whole staff
10	but all the inquiries I have received and know
11	about were all business owners wanting to look at
12	this on commercial properties. I can't say that
13	I've had one resident come to me and ask if this
14	was allowed.
15	MS. TUNGARE: That would be my
16	experience, as well. It would be mostly inquiries
17	on commercial properties; nonresidential uses.
18	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Gordon, did you
19	have a comment?
20	MR. DRAWER: It's still public
21	hearing so I can address you?
22	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: It is still a
23	public hearing, yes.
24	You were sworn last time?

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1	MR. DRAWER: Yes, I was.
2	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Okay. If you
3	could just state your name for the record.
4	MR. DRAWER: Gordon Drawer, Allen Lane,
5	City of St. Charles.
6	Do you want the address?
7	THE COURT REPORTER: No, sir.
8	MR. DRAWER: I've been trying to come
9	back with some of the information in answers to
10	your questions and trying to keep in order, but
11	you're going too fast.
12	The first thing is, people don't want a
13	wind turbine or purchase them for aesthetic
14	reasons. One is going to buy them. They do it
15	to save money. And so the wind decides where
16	you're going to site one, and if you don't have
17	good wind like you saw the the obstructions of
18	the trees or the other buildings, then it's not
19	feasible to do it.
20	A wind turbine is is funny because the
21	fuel is free. That's why people like it, but
22	it's very capital intensive to purchase, so
23	almost all of the decisions are going to be
24	economically driven by "Is it is it

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1	economically feasible to do this? Will there be
2	enough wind to make it worthwhile?" And if it's
3	not, "If I'm not going to get any advantage,"
4	they are not going to do it, so for for that
5	reason, you're probably going to eliminate a very
6	high percentage of your potential residential
7	part of it.
8	Where could you do it? Obviously, the park
9	district is bringing it up in their park, but I
10	could envision maybe even a tower at the foundry
11	area on the west side. Maybe some of the other
12	business parks might come along. If they're
13	trying to cut their energy or if they're looking
14	at some new usage, they might want to generate
15	their own free fuel to offset the increase,
16	things like that.
17	But you always do a test of the wind, and
18	if the wind doesn't blow in your area, you're not
19	going to put it in.
20	And I I agree with your minimum of
21	1 acre. In reality, it might work in some
22	particular place, but, in reality, the 2-acre
23	would probably be more feasible, and I really
24	I envision wind towers in residential wind in the

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1	county homes rather than in the city.
2	As far as the downtown, you're right.
3	There's nothing there. The only one that would
4	strike me is the roof of the parking structure on
5	First Avenue, and even then I'm not sure if
6	the the natural valley dip wouldn't be too
7	high.
8	I don't know what the winds do, if they
9	would come down to that, so you can't preclude
10	you can't think of all the things that you don't
11	want to ahead of time, but I think that
12	you're very well addressing the question among
13	yourselves is, "Do you want to be a follower or a
14	leader?"
15	Now, this whole thing has been generated by
16	the park district, and they're putting it in
17	their environmental teaching center, examples of
18	renewable energy.
19	They have the green roof, the solar, the
20	photovoltaic, and solar thermal, and now they're
21	asking for the wind, and so they're going to have
22	classes and students and also visitors coming in
23	there, and so they're doing the learning for
24	you they're doing the teaching, I should say.

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1	People will see that and say, "What's that up
2	there?"
3	"Well, that's generating electricity."
4	They'll be able to go over and see how much
5	power is being generated by the wind.
6	They will have a display inside or outside,
7	in the metering, things like that, so right away
8	now you're educating the public and you're
9	peaking their interest whether or not they want
10	to have it.
11	So if you want to wait and see how the
12	other communities do it, that's certainly a good
13	approach to take; but if you want to really jump
14	on this and say, "Well, we're going to have a
15	display. We're educating the children. They're
16	going to come home and talk to their parents,"
17	then maybe you want to consider being a leader
18	and saying, "We've already put in our zoning to
19	allow this in the city." We realize it's not
20	going to impact many people because it's just not
21	economically and wind feasible, but nonetheless,
22	you know, you could make a recommendation to the
23	City for something like this to go forward.
24	I don't know what the Council's feel on

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1	this is, either, as far as residential, but it's
2	really kind of deciding "Do you want to make a
3	a green example for St. Charles for
4	sustainability?" There's a lot of interest in
5	that area in the last five years, and so this is
6	a chance to step up and, at least on your level,
7	make a recommendation that "Yeah. Let's go
8	through with this and not just put it off and
9	wait until there's an overwhelming group of
10	people coming in." I think you've coming in
11	asking for it.
12	I think you have you've announced the
13	public hearing, sent out the notices for the
14	residential around the park district. I don't
15	see any press here. I guess they don't bother to
16	come to this anymore; but, you know, you could
17	also do a press release or something, but I think
18	it could tie it into Arbor Day or Earth Day or
19	something like that, as as an example that
20	St. Charles has stepped up and addressed this.
21	It's something new.
22	You know, maybe maybe the special use is
23	the more restrictive way to do it so that people
24	just don't run in, but, in reality, it's not

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1	going to happen because especially on the
2	tower. The reason people have towers is because
3	it's a bigger unit. You're going to generate
4	more electricity, and so it has to be
5	economically feasible to pay for all that tower
6	and equipment.
7	In reality, the most you can probably
8	expect in St. Charles down the road is a
9	building-mounted vertical one, which is what you
10	described aptly as a the urban type of a wind
11	turbine, and people might come to that if they're
12	not surrounded by trees someday.
13	That would be easy to mount. It might only
14	be 1, 2, or 5 kilowatts or something, and they
15	might do that to step up and see how it is. But
16	I don't think any salesman is going to get anyone
17	to buy it unless they can prove and test that
18	there is wind and the potential value to them to
19	spend that money because, if there isn't, no one
20	is going to take advantage of it. It's just not
21	economical.
22	Did any of that make sense? Any questions?
23	I mean, I'm trying to kind of pick up all the
24	different things that you touched upon.

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1	MEMBER DOYLE: What's your opinion
2	about the benefit of micro turbines on on, you
3	know, structure-mounted micro turbines at, you
4	know, the at the structural level?
5	MR. DRAWER: There has been a lot of
6	interest in Chicago, and that's what your staff
7	referenced, and so I think that's where it's
8	going to start.
9	St. Charles is very conservative, and it's
10	a beautiful area, so we probably haven't led
11	anything in the past. We wait until the people
12	demand it and then come in and ask for it.
13	Is it ready yet? Technically, I'm not
14	sure. I know of a Federal building in Chicago
15	that put up some wind turbines and they didn't
16	work, and so they've already taken them down and
17	returned them to the to the manufacturer.
18	So I think the technology still hasn't
19	proven how effective it is, but as far as size
20	and aesthetics and things like that, it's all
21	going to start small because of the economics
22	involved in in doing it, and I I wouldn't
23	think anyone would be able to sell it unless they
24	can do a wind test and show the potential

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1	homeowner that there is a regular amount of wind.
2	Most of Illinois is what they call a
3	2 level of wind. There's a smaller section near
4	Springfield and Quincy that's Level 3, and that's
5	a higher wind; and then there's a small area a
6	couple areas of Level 1, and the Level 1 is not
7	applicable for wind turbines, so if we're in an
8	area that has been designated as Level 1, then
9	probably we don't have anything to worry about.
10	But the Wind Level 2 now, the manufacturers
11	have developed economical wind turbines to work
12	in that level which is not a high wind.
13	Like you said, you don't want to have
14	the how did you describe it? turbulent
15	winds. Even the big wind turbines that you see
16	out on the wind farms are geared to shut off at
17	60 miles an hour or higher. They just lock in
18	place because that could damage everything in a
19	tornado or a turbulent wind.
20	And so the person that was here last week,
21	who was who was selling those smaller ones in
22	Chicago along with other renewable energy
23	he would probably be better to say how Chicago is
24	adapting with it and how many people are doing

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1	it, and I've seen pictures and results of all
2	types of it, but that part of it is probably not
3	really feasible right now; that I would be very
4	surprised if anyone rushed to do any of them,
5	even if you set the most lenient one was
6	available. It's just you know, it's too
7	expensive and everything.
8	The only reason you put it in no one
9	will put it in to show up. They're going to put
10	it in because it's going to save them money on
11	their power, and we have good rates here in
12	St. Charles, but, obviously, in the future, the
13	power rates are expected to rise, so that's why
14	that would drive people wanting to do it in
15	businesses. The park district is an example or a
16	demonstration.
17	Anything else I could respond to?
18	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Well, I think
19	I agree with what you're saying, if having an
20	ordinance in place is something that St. Charles
21	would point to as being a leader and in either
22	of the options that we're proposing tonight that
23	would be the case there would be an ordinance
24	in place.

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1	MR. DRAWER: I think it would show
2	you're proactive rather than reactive.
3	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: And I don't
4	think that anybody on the Commission here
5	well, I speak for myself but I'll say that
6	nobody here is going to sit and wait for somebody
7	else to put an ordinance in place. I mean,
8	that's not the intent. The intent is simply to
9	spend more time looking at this.
10	The issue in front of us, I believe, has to
11	do with the fact that we were Matt has spent a
12	lot of time on this.
13	As it was brought to us, there is a time
14	crunch here for the park district, and so for us
15	to spend more time looking at this, we decided to
16	split them so the park district wouldn't lose
17	their funding, and that's simply what we're
18	attempting to do right now.
19	MR. DRAWER: The park district is
20	firmly what I'm in favor of.
21	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Good.
22	Then they can get going and, in the
23	meanwhile, don't say we're tabling it
24	indefinitely, but that we have a time and place

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1	that we come back after doing one of these things
2	that we've talked about, to research.
3	I mean, the technology may not change, but
4	there's a number of things. The micro towers
5	that can generate electricity in in up to, I
6	think, 2- to 3-mile-an-hour winds, and maybe
7	right this minute they're expensive, but that's
8	not to say that the you know, vertical
9	turbines.
10	That's not say that in six months from now
11	that won't even change because there's all kinds
12	of things there's a lot of things, I think,
13	that we need to consider before we just pass a
14	blanket
15	MR. DRAWER: As far as wind turbines
16	go, it's not the speed; it's the constant amount
17	of wind.
18	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Right.
19	MR. DRAWER: So like you said, a
20	small amount of wind but at a longer time would
21	be effective for the type of equipment.
22	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: And do we
23	know? Are we a Level 2 here in St. Charles or a
24	Level 1 or a Level 3?

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1	MR. DRAWER: Overall I think it's a 2.
2	MR. O'ROURKE: It's a 2 but it's a
3	height of something like it's like a height of
4	100 feet above ground level. That's what the
5	ratings are based on.
6	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: So up on the
7	hill we're going to be closer to Level 2 than
8	down below?
9	MR. O'ROURKE: Yes. It's 100 or
10	150 or so feet up. I have to look at the maps
11	that Gordon referenced.
12	MR. DRAWER: Your high points are the
13	only places that it would be doable.
14	Thank you very much.
15	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: All right.
16	MEMBER PRETZ: I had a question for
17	staff.
18	MR. O'ROURKE: Yes.
19	MEMBER PRETZ: In Option 2 it says
20	that for residential they would apply for a
21	special use permit.
22	Can you just help me understand the steps
23	that a resident would go through in order to get
24	the approval?

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1	MR. O'ROURKE: Sure. Sure.
2	It would be like any other special use that
3	comes before the Plan Commission. They would be
4	required to fill out an application with staff,
5	as far as we review it.
6	We would set up a public hearing, which
7	means everybody within 250 feet of that
8	residential property would be notified by
9	certified mail. The public hearing is published
10	in the paper, and then we go through the public
11	hearing process in front of the Plan Commission,
12	and, ultimately, each one would get approved
13	individually by the City Council.
14	MEMBER PRETZ: Okay. Thank you.
15	MS. TUNGARE: If I can supplement
16	what Matt said is, we will put use standards in
17	place, some criteria in place, that will have to
18	be used for the Plan Commission to evaluate each
19	and every special use.
20	So, basically, there would be a framework
21	within which the Plan Commission would have to
22	make a determination on the special use, and that
23	is per the advice of our legal counsel.
24	Again, it's so subjective that, if we allow

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1	it for one, there is a consistency that we allow
2	it for someone else. If they meet the criteria,
3	then the Commission has been consistent.
4	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: That Option 2
5	would be I said I think it would be bad idea.
6	Just you know, no offense, but I I
7	know the first time that we send notices out
8	within 250 feet of the first person that puts in
9	an application, there's going to be public uproar
10	about "Well, how was this passed? Nobody knew
11	about it," et cetera, et cetera. You know? I
12	think we all know how those things go.
13	MEMBER DOYLE: This I this is
14	an important point. I was going to ask the Plan
15	Commissioners to try to get a sense of how many
16	of us would be inclined on further reflection
17	to to consider that we might vote for
18	Option 2?
19	Now, if the sense of the Commission is
20	that, you know, this doesn't have much of a
21	chance, then whether the whether tabling it is
22	definite or indefinite, it doesn't matter because
23	we're saying now that our sense that we're not
24	going to this doesn't really stand much of a

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1	chance of ever being approved in the future.
2	I don't know if that's what the sense is.
3	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: I just I don't
4	like having a special use review.
5	MEMBER DOYLE: The special use part
6	of it?
7	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Yes, the special
8	use because then we would have to go through a
9	special use review for everyone who puts in an
10	application in a residential area. I just
11	don't
12	MR. O'ROURKE: Only for the
13	tower-mounted.
14	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Sure.
15	MR. O'ROURKE: I just point that out.
16	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Sure.
17	MEMBER DOYLE: So you might approve
18	of the basic concept without the special use.
19	You might say it's
20	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Yes. But it would
21	have to take a different form than what we've
22	already looked at.
23	MEMBER DOYLE: The second question,
24	if the Plan Commission communicates to the

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1	Council and to the staff that it feels that this
2	warrants further work on staff's part, and that
3	we do want something more, we do want this to
4	come back to us again at some point in the
5	future, is there any reason why voting for
6	Option 1 now and recommending it to Council now
7	would in any way preclude or diminish the
8	possibility of our loosening those those
9	restrictions in one month or in two years?
10	MS. TUNGARE: It does not preclude
11	that in any way procedurally. There are multiple
12	times we've gone through general amendments
13	and and and had to go back and refine
14	those.
15	A prime example is our Zoning Ordinance.
16	We adopted an entirely new Zoning Ordinance in
17	2006.
18	A year into that we brought back some
19	amendments to that Zoning Ordinance.
20	A couple of years after that we brought
21	back some more amendments, and we do it on an
22	annual basis now and multiple times a year, so it
23	does not procedurally preclude staff or the
24	Plan Commission from from initiating an

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1	amendment if you choose to do so.
2	MEMBER DOYLE: Well, yeah.
3	So just to rephrase my question, really
4	what I'm getting at here, is this an either/or or
5	a both/and proposition?
6	Can we consider the possibility of
7	recommending approval of of model of
8	Option 1 and indicate to staff possibly that we
9	also want to investigate further some of the
10	concepts that are presented in Option 2 at some
11	point down the road? Or does any you seem to
12	be, Tim, strongly you know, you seem to have
13	the strongest concerns about this.
14	Do you feel that we would be losing
15	anything if we were to recommend Option 1?
16	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Well, I'm
17	afraid that if we recommended Option 1, that we
18	would lose the impetus to to follow up on
19	this, you know, in a in a reasonable period of
20	time, and I think my biggest concern, Rita
21	honestly, my biggest concern is that I think it's
22	too restrictive for most of town, and that's
23	to me, that's the biggest issue that I have with
24	this, and I'm not sure without doing you know,

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1	I have done some research, but it's only been
2	two weeks. It's just not enough time.
3	I want to figure out a way that we can make
4	it less restrictive in residential areas in town,
5	and I think that Option 2 is going to cause a
6	problem.
7	As Todd points out, go ahead and approve
8	the towers. If if I was sure and I think
9	we should use this focus group idea. I think we
10	need to spend more time on that residential
11	portion.
12	If I knew it was coming back, that we said
13	we would like it in three months and set a date,
14	let's get together. Let's decide what we're
15	going to do, how we're going to approach the
16	continued research, and then set a date to come
17	back.
18	MS. TUNGARE: Can I Mr. Chairman,
19	can I respond to Mr. Kessler's comments?
20	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Yes.
21	Let me ask a question, though.
22	Also included as one of the things that we
23	discussed last time was the possibility of
24	bifurcating the application and actually making a

154 1 recommendation on the portion of the application 2 and table the remainder for a period of time. 3 I think that that's a viable alternative. That way, when we want to have public -- we -- we 5 keep it on the agenda as -- as an item. 6 we could keep the public hearing open, as long as 7 it's continued on a -- I don't know enough about 8 the -- what the notice requirements are, but I 9 think, as long as we continue it regularly, it 10 still remains before us. 11 MS. TUNGARE: I think procedurally 12 that's possible, and maybe if I start off by 13 responding to Mr. Kessler's comments. 14 From a timing standpoint, from an 15 administrative standpoint purely, I have some 16 concerns at this point in terms of allocating 17 resources to this important initiative in the 18 next few months, and especially if we're talking 19 subcommittee -- staffing subcommittees or focus 20 groups, and the primary reason for that is -- and 21 Russell Colby will address additional business --22 we are embarking on rewriting our entire 23 Comprehensive Plan. That process has already 24 been initiated, with the blessing of

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1	City Council, and that is going to be a
2	significant effort on the planning division's
3	part over the next several months.
4	So if we were to bring back a general
5	amendment, if there has to be any additional
6	research, any input from citizens, maybe input
7	with the Plan Commission, my recommendation would
8	be that that we bring it back within another
9	12 months or so. I cannot commit at this point
10	bringing it back within three or four months.
11	You know, we just can't be in a position to
12	allocate those kinds of resources right now, the
13	Comprehensive Plan already having been initiated.
14	So to respond to your question,
15	Chairman Wallace, here is my suggestion: I think
16	you can definitely bifurcate the process for
17	purposes of tonight. The Plan Commission
18	given the sentiment of the Plan Commission, you
19	can make a recommendation on the nonresidential
20	piece of it and we can move forward. The park
21	district can move forward with that piece.
22	The residential piece of it, when we are
23	ready to move forward with that piece of it, we
24	will republish a notice and deal with it, but,

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1	again, at this point I I really feel
2	comfortable saying that we could revisit that in
3	a period of about a year. That will probably be
4	more appropriate.
5	There's no point committing to something we
6	can't keep a commitment at this point.
7	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: I would
8	MR. DRAWER: Mr. Chairman,
9	Mr. Chairman, I just thought of something.
10	I can see what you're saying, and I'm not
11	going to make any recommendation like the staff
12	did it's your choice but if you want to
13	just approve the section that allows the park
14	district to go over, I think they're going to
15	have their wind tower installed within
16	six months, and they might have a kickoff or
17	some publicity or something, and that might be
18	your segue into revisiting it the part of
19	it see what the reaction is, see what it looks
20	like and stuff, and then it might be okay to drag
21	it out sometime after that to see what the public
22	says or have focus.
23	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Well and I
24	actually my my next thought was to continue

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1	it to a certain date for status, and in that
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2	time, I would open up communication with someone
3	on the park board about exactly that, whether
4	it's something that they would I mean, I I
5	don't know that there's any reason why it you
6	know, something could not be done purely by
7	Plan Commission and park board members, you know,
8	hosted at the at the nature center, you know?
9	I mean, hosting a public forum at the at their
10	new center, I think that's extremely appropriate,
11	and I think it makes it even more I think
12	there's even more of an impact.
13	One one of the things that I take
14	exception to is that there won't be interest in
15	the wind turbines in residential areas because of
16	the economics.
17	I don't think I I think that you
18	discount my generation, and a lot of people who
19	will want a wind personally, you know, a micro
20	turbine, exactly because they want to show it off.
21	MR. DRAWER: The more common they
22	are, they drive the price down, so probably
23	within some time period it's going to become
24	more reasonable and feasible.

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1	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Sure.
2	MR. DRAWER: But I also want to just
3	I'm a great proponent of wind and renewable
4	energy, but I've also been involved in a lot of
5	construction and stuff.
6	Since we are going into something new
7	here they have a schedule and everything
8	but I've learned that whatever can go wrong will,
9	and so by not giving your zoning right away and
10	waiting to see how this basic first one in the
11	area goes, you're kind of protecting yourself
12	until if something unforeseen happened. You
13	know, let's not you know what I'm saying? If
14	they fall behind schedule or something.
15	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Yeah.
16	MR. DRAWER: I think what you're
17	saying makes a lot of sense. Just wait and see
18	and see what the public policy is as far as
19	pushing it in too much, but I think approval for
20	the park district is a great first step.
21	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: All right. Any
22	further comments? Questions? Anything?
23	(No response.)
24	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Do you have

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1	anything else, Matt?
2	MR. O'ROURKE: Yes.
3	Just sitting here and listening to the
4	conversation, one question I have is, in
5	three months or in a year, do we do we does
6	the Commission envision an ordinance where we're
7	allowing 120-foot-tall towers in every
8	residential neighborhood in town? By right, I
9	mean, are we holding this whole thing up
10	because
11	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: No. I don't think
12	so. I don't think so.
13	MR. O'ROURKE: I guess my confusion
14	is that they either have to be high or they're
15	mounted on the structure, and that's kind of
16	where we go. I don't understand why three months
17	from how it's going to change that. I really am
18	getting a little
19	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: It may not. I don't
20	know.
21	MR. O'ROURKE: Okay.
22	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: And that's what I
23	don't know.
24	MR. O'ROURKE: I guess I just wanted

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1	to kind of get that out there.
2	If we're just delaying it for three months
3	to come back and do the same thing, what's the
4	point?
5	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Well, maybe
6	it's going to be 10 feet higher than the tallest
7	structure or within a certain distance, or maybe
8	it's going to be on the garage and it's going to
9	be 10 feet taller than the house, or maybe, you
10	know I mean, there's lot of differences,
11	depending on the property and the aesthetics of
12	the property and the structures around the
13	property. Something could change in the way
14	we've written this first pass that you have spent
15	so much time on, but I think I don't want to
16	go back to the same thing.
17	We've brought we had this brought to us
18	for the park district, and now they're in a time
19	crunch, and we've had two weeks, and this is a
20	big issue, and I think that's the most important
21	thing to me is that there are a lot of other
22	things we need to consider when we're writing
23	this ordinance.
24	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: And I will

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1	I think I can only speak for one person but
2	I think, for me, the difference would be, voting
3	on this exact same thing three months from now,
4	there is a chance I would vote for it.
5	MEMBER DOYLE: On which? Option 2?
6	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: The residential
7	component.
8	MEMBER DOYLE: Which option?
9	Option 2 or Option 1?
10	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: No, I don't know.
11	I mean, if Option 1 or 2 came back three months
12	from now in exactly the same form, I would be
13	better educated to know to be comfortable with
14	voting for it.
15	MEMBER SCHUETZ: What I'm hearing is
16	two things here. If we come back in 3 months,
17	6 months, 12 months, what I'm hearing from Tim is
18	that we need to be more fine in detail as far as
19	this option, that option, height, you know, like
20	you just mentioned from this structure, that
21	structure, or is it technology that you're
22	thinking is going to change?
23	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: No. I I
24	don't think that it's going

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1	MEMBER SCHUETZ: So it has nothing to
2	do with technology?
3	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Well, I would
4	never say "never."
5	MEMBER SCHUETZ: Because we can't
6	wait on technology, no.
7	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: I don't think
8	it's technology. I think it's how we how we
9	write the ordinance, what you can have.
10	MEMBER SCHUETZ: I don't see the
11	downside if we were to approve General Amendment
12	Option 1. Like Rita had mentioned, it gets it
13	going; it gets the public aware of what's
14	happening; and when they find out more about it
15	from the park district, then they come to the
16	City if they want to place one.
17	I mean, this sounds a little backward. I
18	know what you're going to think when I say what
19	I'm going to say, that we put an amendment
20	together to change it, add to it, that's what you
21	don't want to do.
22	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: No. But the
23	question is who?
24	MEMBER SCHUETZ: Who?

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1	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: The ordinance is
2	already there.
3	Who is going to come back? How is it going
4	to come back before the City?
5	MEMBER SCHUETZ: I don't know. I don't
6	know how the process works.
7	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Well, somebody has
8	to bring an application.
9	MS. TUNGARE: Staff can also
10	initiated an application. We always there
11	have been various times we initiate an
12	application.
13	MEMBER SCHUETZ: I think what I'm
14	hearing, we don't want the amendment or the
15	general amendment like this, the residential, in
16	stone, so if you don't meet it, forget it. Then
17	we never hear back as an amendment.
18	That is probably a concern; correct?
19	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: That is a
20	concern, yeah.
21	MS. TUNGARE: But it should only be a
22	concern if the amendment that is in place is not
23	working.
24	For example, if it precludes a specific

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1	individual from doing what they want to do, it
2	precludes a number of individuals from doing what
3	they want to do, or truly poses some issues from
4	a technical standpoint, where where, you know,
5	there's there's just been some error in our
6	judgment there, by all means, staff has and will
7	continue to initiate general amendments to the
8	ordinance. We do that.
9	MEMBER SCHUETZ: I don't think we're
10	going to find our answer unless people come
11	forward and want to put one in.
12	MEMBER DOYLE: To Matt's question, I
13	you know, about Option 2, I'm not prepared to
14	recommend it tonight. I'm not certain that
15	1 acre is a sufficient size. I might be more
16	comfortable if it was 5 acres, but in terms of
17	what I understand based on the the information
18	that's been presented to us, I think you're
19	exactly right.
20	The question is: Are we prepared to
21	consider, by right, 120-foot wind turbine towers
22	to be installed in residential property? If
23	we're serious about renewable energy, then we
24	need to consider that question and say, "Yeah.

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1	Maybe we are."
2	I don't think anyone my sense is that no
3	one on the Plan Commission is prepared to
4	recommend that tonight, and I sort of concur with
5	Tom that that I I I think that Option 1
6	is is a fine sort of incremental step to take,
7	and then I would like to see it come back to us
8	at some point that it is appropriate in relation
9	to staff resources and other priorities, and,
10	frankly, I don't mind waiting for members of the
11	public to come to us and say, "I really want to
12	do this. Why don't you allow it?"
13	Say, "Well, put forward a work with
14	staff to put forward a motion to amend."
15	I think there should be something. Just as
16	the park district has come forward and said, "We
17	want to do this. Will you do something to make
18	it make it happen?" You know, it seems
19	appropriate that there should be a certain amount
20	of pressure from the public to say, "This is
21	something that we really think is good and we
22	want you to help make it happen."
23	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: I understand
24	what you're saying. I mean, the the period

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1	the opposite of that is, you know, the public is
2	not not knocking down the doors to perhaps
3	to, you know, have this done, but why put some
4	restrictions in place that they have to change?
5	Why not why not if if we have
6	time, take the time to put together an ordinance
7	that is appropriate, that's going to that
8	you're I guess I can say the same thing.
9	MEMBER SCHUETZ: I agree with what
10	you're saying, Timothy, but I'm afraid it's not
11	going to happen for a year.
12	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: But you know
13	what? Maybe what everybody is saying is we're
14	not being we're not being inundated with
15	requests.
16	Maybe that doesn't matter and maybe before
17	the year is up, well, as Todd points out,
18	bifurcate the where it continues to come up
19	before us maybe before a year's time, and we've
20	done enough research.
21	We say, "Okay. We'll go ahead and vote."
22	That maybe it won't take a year, but by not doing
23	it, you're going to force the residents it's
24	one thing for the park district to come with an

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1	application. It's another thing for somebody
2	over on 13th Street to come with an application.
3	It's a different thing.
4	MEMBER SCHUETZ: Okay. Come with an
5	application.
6	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: It's too
7	expensive and people don't have the resources
8	and they don't they don't have the staff to
9	to come with an application, so let's let's
10	take our time here. We don't have to rush into
11	there's no reason to rush into it, by what I'm
12	hearing from, you know, staff and from you, so
13	why rush into it?
14	MEMBER SCHUETZ: Do you want to be a
15	leader or a follower?
16	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: We're going
17	to be the leader because we're going to have an
18	ordinance in place. We're not waiting to see
19	what somebody else does. We're waiting to check
20	it out. We're waiting to spend more than
21	two weeks looking into it, you know, for our
22	purposes.
23	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: I would like to
24	make it something that would make people in

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1	residential areas want to implement this type of
2	technology.
3	MEMBER SCHUETZ: I agree with you.
4	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Again, in the form
5	it is right now, that's not going to happen, and
6	I don't know how to make it happen. That's what
7	I want to know. So that's I mean, that's my
8	reason.
9	MS. TUNGARE: I think I think
10	I think I'm starting to recognize the sentiment
11	that exists amongst some of the members of the
12	Plan Commission. It's not that there's any
13	opposition to having regulations in place for
14	allowing or disallowing it for residential, it's
15	just that I think there's Commission members
16	feel that there needs to be a better
17	understanding. They want to have a better grasp
18	of the issues that surround residential.
19	One of the things I can offer having
20	said that we would bring this back in one year,
21	here are a couple of things that we can offer in
22	the interim.
23	In the spirit of all of us collectively
24	educating ourselves more on the residential piece

169 1 of it, is if we come across workshops, seminars, 2 you know, any Web casts, any information that 3 would be over the next several months, we will share it with the Plan Commission. If we come across any speakers potentially 6 who are willing to come out here and speak to the 7 Plan Commission, any consultants, anyone who has got any expertise in this area, we can offer 9 that, as well. 10 And, in the interim, if there is that 11 resident out there, the adventurous resident, who 12 comes in here knocking on our door saying, "I'm 13 going to put up a tower in my backyard, and I 14 want to file an application for a general 15 amendment," they have a right to file an 16 application, and we have an obligation to process 17 the application. 18 So those are the -- the issues or the other 19 suggestions I have to the Plan Commission to 20 consider. 21 You know, the sense I'm getting is that 22 there's some debate here between going with 23 Option 1 versus bifurcating the process, and --24 and I agree with a couple of statements here that

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1	we really don't have people waiting out there
2	knocking on our doors for the residential piece,
3	so by not adopting the residential piece of it
4	today, are we specifically hurting anyone or are
5	we holding anything back? It's difficult to say.
6	I don't believe so. I don't believe that's the
7	case.
8	So the only thing is, I can't commit again
9	to bringing this back sooner because it doesn't
10	give us that much time. It doesn't make sense.
11	And, again, it's not a good use of our resources.
12	So as long as we all agree to a reasonable amount
13	of time, we can continue this dialogue and
14	process of education. We can bifurcate the
15	process.
16	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Okay.
17	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: All right. Any
18	other questions?
19	(No response.)
20	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Comments?
21	Anything?
22	(No response.)
23	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: All right. Then I
24	guess the

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1	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: I would make
2	a motion but I don't know exactly
3	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Well, I was going
4	to say, I guess the two motions that would be in
5	order would either be to close the public
6	hearing, or to continue the public hearing as to
7	a portion of the application and close as to the
8	remainder.
9	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Is it
10	necessary to keep the public hearing open?
11	MS. TUNGARE: At this point, my
12	suggestion is it would be cleaner if you just
13	close it because you don't want it's probably
14	cleaner if we come back after a few months and
15	just republish the notice. That way, no one can
16	fault us for conducting a public hearing whenever
17	we want.
18	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: So I would
19	make a motion that we close this public hearing.
20	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: All right.
21	MEMBER PRETZ: I will second.
22	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: It's been moved
23	and seconded.
24	Any discussion on the motion?

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1	(No response.)
2	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Tim, roll call.
3	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Doyle?
4	MEMBER DOYLE: Yes.
5	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Schuetz?
6	MEMBER SCHUETZ: Yes.
7	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Pretz?
8	MEMBER PRETZ: Yes.
9	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Henningson?
10	MEMBER HENNINGSON: Yes.
11	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Wallace?
12	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: Yes.
13	VICE CHAIRMAN KESSLER: Kessler, yes.
14	CHAIRMAN WALLACE: All right. The
15	public hearing is closed.
16	Thank you, Matt, and that concludes
17	Item No. 4 on the agenda.
18	(Which were all of the
19	proceedings had in the
20	above-entitled matter at
21	8:10 p.m.)
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1	STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS.
2	COUNTY OF K A N E)
3	
4	I, Glenn L. Sonntag, Certified Shorthand
5	Reporter No. 084-002034, Registered Diplomate
6	Reporter, do hereby certify that I reported in
7	shorthand the proceedings had in the
8	above-entitled matter, and that the foregoing is
9	a true, correct, and complete transcript of my
10	shorthand notes so taken as aforesaid.
11	In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my
12	hand on this 28th day of June, 2011.
13	
14	
	Glen L. Santay
15	Certified Shorthand Reporter
	Registered Diplomate Reporter
16	Certified Legal Video Specialist
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