



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **~ Media Advisory ~**

### **PLANNING COMMISSION SEEKS APPLICANT FOR VACANCIES**

The City of Springfield is accepting applications for one position on its seven-member Planning Commission. Commissioners are all volunteer at-large positions with no ward restrictions. The term of a Planning Commission appointment is four years. Applications are available in the City Manager's Office and the Development & Public Works Department in City Hall, 225 Fifth Street, during regular business hours. The deadline to apply is **5pm on Friday, September 23, 2016**. City Council interviews will be held **October 10, 2016** during the work session and appointment to the Planning Commission will take place **October 17, 2016** during the City Council regular session.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, **July 19, 2016**. Work sessions begin at 6:00 p.m. in the Jesse Maine Room adjoining the City Council Chambers and regular sessions begin at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall.

For additional information, contact: **Springfield Planning Manager Greg Mott at 541.726.3774**

#### **Background:**

The Planning Commission is appointed by the City Council and has the authority to make a variety of decisions including zone changes, variances, and discretionary use requests; and hear appeals of staff decisions. The Commission also makes recommendations to the City Council about the City's future growth and development. The commission works with city staff in drafting amendments to the Metropolitan Area General Plan, local land-use refinement plans and development regulations. The Planning Commission also serves as the City's Committee for Citizen Involvement and reviews and approves the formation of Planning Advisory Committees and Citizen Involvement Programs.

The Planning Commission meets twice per month. At a minimum, this means about six hours of meetings monthly with 4-6 hours of preparation time for each meeting. Each commissioner is also expected to attend Council meetings on a rotating basis, and to participate on special committees as needed. The total monthly commitment may exceed 12 hours.

The City provides training for new Planning Commissioners as they learn their role and responsibilities as appointed officials. Commissioners may attend training sessions on meeting protocol, conflict of interest, legal issues and decision-making. The Planning Division serves as the primary staff to the Commission by providing reports, meeting packets, training opportunities, meeting minutes and information requested by the Commission.

Regular meetings are held in the evening on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Commissioners are required to attend these meetings and are expected to have reviewed the agenda material in preparation for performing their duties.





## **Supplemental Questions for Planning Commission Application**

1. What is your personal interest in applying for the position?
2. What do you see in Springfield's future and how can you, as a Planning Commissioner, help to realize that future?
3. Describe your experience in working as a member of a group that makes decisions?
4. Describe how you would balance the need for economic development with neighborhood preservation or environmental values?
5. When a proposed development conflicts with an adopted plan or the Development Code, how would you, as a Planning Commissioner, resolve the conflicts?
6. Do you have any specific ideas for changes that should be made in any of our adopted planning or development review documents or in how we review development proposals in Springfield?
7. Can you commit the time necessary to be an effective Planning Commissioner? This means about two meetings monthly with several hours of preparation time for each meeting, plus occasional joint meetings?