

# Decisions about land use plan delayed as officials seek data

Final decisions on the Lincoln-Lancaster County land use plan were delayed Tuesday until at least Sept. 10 at a joint meeting of city and county officials.

After reviewing the preliminary plan, which outlines land use through the year 2000, the City-County Planning Commission, City Council, Mayor Helen Boosalis and the county commissioners, decided to postpone action on the plan until they could review it.

The plan, presented to officials by the consulting firm of Barton-Ashman Associates, Inc., from Evanston, Ill., contained 36 specific issues the consultants recommended the officials adopt.

Barton-Ashman associates were hired for \$75,000 to design the plan.

The issues included city and county land use, transportation staging, water use, sewers, parks and schools. The plan is to be completed by Jan. 1, 1977.

### Plan already delayed

Rod Engelen, chief consultant on the three-year project, said the plan is already off schedule.

Officials gave a variety of reasons for delaying their decisions.

Boosalis said she thought city and county heads should be consulted on issues that affect their agencies. The vast amount of information in the 42-page preliminary draft presented by the consultants Tuesday morning made it impossible to reach intelligent decisions immediately.

Councilman Bob Jeambey and County Commissioner Bruce Hamilton disagreed, saying they didn't think the consultants were asking the right people for advice.

### 'Why consult council?'

Jeambey said he thought the planning commission was the only body that could make decisions on the plan and questioned why the council was being consulted.

"Ultimately, the planning commission has to decide," he said. "If we (the council) make a set of decisions that are different than the planning commission—then get back together with the consultants—one group is wasting its time."

Hamilton agreed, saying he was unsure which group's input the consultants were seeking. He said that although the three groups were meeting jointly, the planning com-

mission ultimately made the decisions anyway. He added he didn't see any need for anyone else to waste their time worrying about it.

Group chairman and Councilman Bob Sikyta suggested the entire group meet with the agency heads and legal councils to seek their advice. Then the planning commission can meet with the officials to get their input and on Sept. 10 the group can meet with the consultants to iron out their differences, he said.

Boosalis said she "hoped we aren't that rigid in our views that we can't reach some compromises."

### Proposal includes radial

The consultants' preliminary proposals on city land-use also include plans for a northeast radial and development of land adjacent to it.

Although the planning commission gave preliminary approval to the plan, the council Monday night rejected on a 4-3 vote plans for portions of the radial.

The consultants said they "could change the land-use plan to exclude the radial, making some changes in detail, but not many."

Another change in the preliminary plan involves a proposed west Lincoln bypass. It would be a north-south highway on the west edge of Lincoln, allowing cars to go around the west side without using city streets. The State Highway Dept. said in a letter received Monday that moving roads for the proposed bypass would be "impractical."

### Park-golf course proposed

The only other proposal that received any lengthy discussion at the meeting involved a proposed park with a golf course west of the Lincoln airport, east of W. 40th St. and south of a small industrial park. Because airplanes now fly over the land, the consultants were unsure whether they should make any decisions about its use.

Other major proposals for the city include additional parks, libraries and roads west of the city to "enhance that area's appeal." The construction of four-lane roads north and south of the city limits to ease traffic, extension of city services north and west of the city and acquiring land on the southeast, northeast and southwest corners of the city also were proposed. The land would serve as a "green belt", an undeveloped area to be used for city expansion in the future.

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