

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Jonathan Wachtel, Associate Planner

Thru: Rebecca P. Clark, Director, Community Planning & Development
Roger Wadnal, Comprehensive Planning and Research Manager
Holly Boehm, Principal Planner

Date: February 9, 2009

Subject: Edgewood Neighborhood Plan
PL-08-006

Recommendation:

After review and comment, direct staff to forward a resolution to approve the 2009 Edgewood Neighborhood Plan as an Amendment to the Lakewood Comprehensive Plan at the City Council Regular Meeting on March 9, 2009.

Background:

The Lakewood Comprehensive Plan identifies neighborhood enhancement and support as major goals. The Neighborhood Planning Program is designed to further the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan by developing neighborhood plans, registering neighborhood organizations, and building community partnerships. Neighborhood plans are prepared and implemented in collaboration with City staff, neighborhood organizations, citizens, and businesses, and are intended for use by the City when making decisions related to specific neighborhoods.

The initial focus of the Neighborhood Planning Program has been in the older neighborhoods of northeast Lakewood and in neighborhoods adjacent to major transportation corridors including Sheridan Boulevard, Wadsworth Boulevard, West Alameda Avenue, and Colfax Avenue. Nine neighborhood plans have been adopted to date: The Jefferson Gardens Neighborhood Plan, the Molholm Area Plan, the Edgewood Neighborhood Plan, the North Alameda Neighborhood Plan, the Lasley Neighborhood Plan, the Eiber Neighborhood Plan, the South Alameda Area Plan, the Morse Park Neighborhood Plan, and the Addenbrooke/Belmar Park Neighborhood Plan.

In August of 1997, the City of Lakewood adopted the Edgewood Neighborhood Plan as an amendment to Lakewood's Comprehensive Plan. In 2008, City staff from Community Planning & Development, along with neighborhood residents, revisited the Edgewood Neighborhood Plan to evaluate the Plan's impact on the neighborhood over the past decade, and to update the Plan based on current neighborhood issues and conditions.

The planning area for the neighborhood is defined as the area bounded by Sheridan Boulevard to the east, Wadsworth Boulevard to the west, West Colfax Avenue to the south and the City boundary to the north.

Staff began working with Edgewood neighborhood residents and property owners in the winter of 2008. A neighborhood survey was mailed to all neighborhood residents and property owners on January 24, 2008, and a series of public meetings was held beginning on April 1, 2008. Neighborhood meetings focused on issue identification, visioning, and developing neighborhood goals and actions steps. Several meetings were devoted to City staff providing information about City programs, services and policies. A total of eight neighborhood meetings, two open houses, and a neighborhood picnic were held through the spring and summer of 2008. More than 63 neighborhood residents from 53 households participated in the neighborhood planning process.

Key Elements:

The Edgewood Neighborhood Plan outlines a set of goals for the purpose of addressing issues identified during the planning process. In addition, it identifies a variety of action steps to be implemented over the long term if and when resources become available. The identified goals contained in the Edgewood Plan are identified below:

Transportation and Public Works

- Strengthen pedestrian and bicycle transportation systems through the neighborhood in order to promote safety along major transportation routes and provide connectivity between key neighborhood destinations.
- Maintain a safe neighborhood environment by maintaining a convenient and efficient automobile transportation system.
- Manage drainage and localized flooding problems in the neighborhood.

Public Safety

- Maintain a safe neighborhood environment that emphasizes public safety and community awareness.
- Actively address graffiti and vandalism in the neighborhood.
- Increase safety and address the transient population along neighborhood streets and in neighborhood parks.

Land Use and Property Maintenance

- Improve and maintain the condition and appearance of property in the neighborhood.
- Maintain a range of housing choices in the neighborhood in order to facilitate choice and opportunities for home ownership.
- Support revitalization of businesses, streetscapes and the overall function and appearance of West Colfax Avenue, Wadsworth Boulevard, and West 20th Avenue.
- Effectively manage land use changes in the neighborhood to capitalize on opportunities to improve the physical and social neighborhood environment.

Parks and Cultural Resources

- Maintain and enhance neighborhood park and open space facilities.
- Address public safety concerns at neighborhood parks.
- Support and preserve neighborhood amenities and sites of cultural and historical significance.

Economic Development

- Support local neighborhood businesses and business revitalization efforts along West Colfax Avenue and Wadsworth Boulevard.

Community Participation

- Increase civic participation in the neighborhood in order to promote community cooperation, community identity, and sense of place.
- Promote youth involvement in the community through activities that encourage participation and responsible behavior.

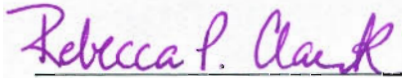
Summary:

At the February 4, 2009 Planning Commission Public Hearing, Planning Commission adopted the 2009 Edgewood Neighborhood Plan as an amendment to the Lakewood Comprehensive Plan.

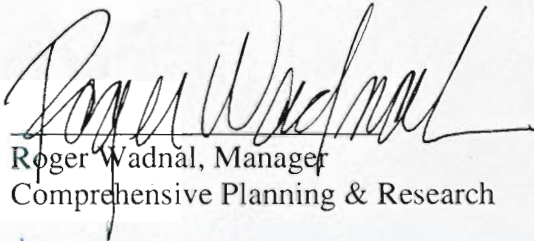
A draft copy of the 2009 Edgewood Neighborhood Plan is attached for your review. At the March 2, 2009, Study Session, there will be a brief presentation about the Plan and time for staff to respond to comments and questions.

If you have any questions prior to the March 2, 2009 Study Session, please contact me at 303-987-7510 or email jonwac@lakewood.org.

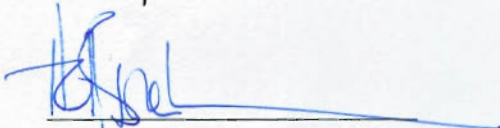
SUBMITTED BY:



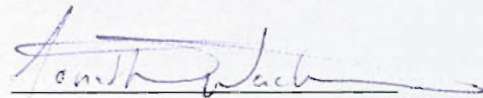
Rebecca P. Clark, Director
Community Planning & Development



Roger Wadnal, Manager
Comprehensive Planning & Research



Holly Boehm, Principal Planner



Jonathan Wachtel, Associate Planner

REVIEWED BY:

Michael J. Rock, City Manager

Joni Inman, Director of Mayor
and City Manager's Office