



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, April 03, 2007

Study Session

Item -1

Community Appearance Plan Presentation

Staff Contact: Paul Briseno

Council Agenda Memo

From: Paul M. Briseño, Assistant to the City Administrator
Meeting: April 3, 2007
Subject: City of Grand Island Community Appearance Plan
Item #'s: 1
Presenter: Paul M. Briseño, Assistant to the City Administrator

Background

City Council requested the development of a Community Appearance Plan that will strategically address issues that cause negative appearances of properties throughout the community, primarily residential properties.

City Administration, tasked with the development of this plan, conducted a series of discussions with departments that often respond and identify properties which are in violation of the municipal code as they relate to the appearance and maintenance of properties. An analysis of these discussions identified key resources available to municipal departments and citizens. Research of successful appearance plans were reviewed for guidance and inspiration.

Preliminary goals and objectives were created by identifying efficient procedures utilized by divisions. In addition, research of the elimination of inefficiencies was done in hopes of creating a more effective approach in addressing issues that cause negative appearances in the Grand Island community.

This process will be used as the base formula for the City of Grand Island Community Appearance Plan. The procedure requires staff to identify all resources available within each division, as well as collaborating organizations. The Community Appearance Plan will serve as a central communication distribution of information and resources available for municipal divisions, outside agencies, and citizens for resolution of problem properties.

Discussion

The preliminary goals and objectives identified serve as an outline for the Community Appearance Plan. Tentative completion dates have been set to correspond with six month and annual benchmarks. An annual progress report will be presented to Council in January 2008.

Conclusion

This item is presented to the City Council in a Study Session to allow for questions to be answered and to create a greater understanding of the issue at hand. Furthermore, the Study Session allows Council to set the direction and solidify the goals and objectives of the Community Appearance Plan.

Description	Lead Division	Co-Partners	Goals/Objectives	Completion Date
Problem Resolution Team				
Continue to address properties that -Meet the requirements of a PRT property -Require immediate attention	Problem Resolution Team Members	Administration GIPD/CSO Fire Health Dept. Human Society Planning/CRA Legal Building HHS Hall County Sheriff Clean Community System	-Pursue abatement/condemnation/rehabilitation of abandoned and dilapidated properties -Establish a funding sources to address PRT properties -Continue to develop an efficient process for resolution of properties that streamline and expedite the process -PRT status of properties reported in the annual Community Appearance Plan report (declared, worked, resolved, benchmarking)	-Ongoing -Ongoing through grants and available budget of the City and outside organizations -October 16, 2007 (1st year coordination of PRT by Administration) -January 2008 Study Session Community Appearance Plan annual report
Residential				
Reduce the number of dilapidated/dangerous properties that cause a nuisance or blemish neighborhoods by utilizing available resources	PRT CSO/Police (lead identifying divisions)	Building Community Development Health Department Utilities	-Establish a property standard -Create a list of counter actions/resources available for major problems -Create a system of communication for collaborative efforts -Track resolution of properties and list/identify in the Administrator's Report	-Completed, needs to be promoted through marketing plan -October 2007 -October 2007 -Ongoing
Commercial				
Promote Business Improvement Districts and neighborhood districts	City Administration			-Ongoing
Code Enforcement Program				
	PD/CSO	PD/CSO Administration IT Legal	-Continue a no bias re-active approach to code enforcement, and work toward a proactive approach -Outline code enforcement process and procedures to be followed -Research technology - research and study the cost/benefit of utilizing software and mobile hardware -Communication - CSO's and Legal Department meetings every 2 months to increase communication/relationship and effectiveness of cases going to court, dismisses, concerns, etc. -Update/review city codes -Conduct an in-house study to evaluate the number of CSO's needed, service areas, and work schedule to create the most efficient CSO program -Report the number of CSO cases resolved	-Ongoing -October 2007 -January 2008 -Start May 07 continue every 2 months -Ongoing -June -Ongoing

Description	Lead Division	Co-Partners	Goals/Objectives	Completion Date
Repeat Code Violators				
Expedite the abatement process and identify a procedure for reoccurring problem properties	Legal CSO/PD		-Create a process that speeds up the resolution process and eliminates repeat offenders	-January 2008
Cleanup Budget				
Identify funding for immediate demolition and cleanup of properties	Building Community Development	CRA CCS	-1 yr. - Identify local, state, and federal funding available, identify resources within community -2 yr. - reevaluate budget for future years	-January 2008 -January 2009
Continue to seek funding				
Housing rehabilitation	Community Development			-Ongoing
Ownership programs	Community Development			-Ongoing
Neighborhood cleanups	CCS	Public Works		-Ongoing
Demolition	Building			-Ongoing
Residential Resources				
Create a single place for residents to find multiple resources available from the city and other agencies	Administration	City - All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marketing plan Web page GITV Utility Inserts Library List all local, state, and federal resources 	-October 2007
Empower Residents - Empower residents to help neighborhoods/community appearance by utilizing resources available, and help facilitate a clean appearance plan for neighborhoods		City - All		-October 2008
Education - The education of residents is key in the success of this program. Materials in English and other bilingual or easy to understand information	Administration			-October 2009
Recognition - Create a Clean Neighborhood Award/Certificate for owners who go above and beyond to work with CSO's and other neighbors/organizations to clean their property and neighborhood and promote current programs including the Regional Planning Commission and the Community Beautification Award		City - All		-October 2010