

Meeting of the Planning Commission, December 16, 2014

Notes taken by Nancy Young

The meeting began at 6:30 pm. Commissioners Caswell, Goff, Connell, Rothschild, and Sullivan were present. Commissioners Hannan and Crouse were not present. Three citizens, two presenters, and an AEDA staff member sat in the audience.

Public Comment: Nancy Young thanked the Commission for their hard work in the past year. As a frequent observer of Planning Commission meetings, she noted that she did not always agree with their decisions, although she agreed with other decisions. Regardless, she appreciated the thoughtfulness of the Commissioners and wished them a happy holiday season and a productive new year.

The agenda contained only one substantive item: rezoning and annexation of land for the expansion of Wanco, a producer of traffic safety equipment, located at 5902 Tennyson Street. Wanco's most "visible" product is variable message highway signs that we all see, warning drivers of upcoming construction, pending road closures, and similar messages.

Gene Baumgartner, facilities manager of Wanco, noted that the company has been working for two years with multiple governments and agencies (Adams County, City of Arvada, Arvada Economic Development Association-AEDA and Hyland Hills Park and Recreation District) to enable this proposed expansion. He anticipates that 100-150 new jobs will be created, making Wanco one of Arvada's largest employers.

There were no public comments for or against the proposal, and there were no Commissioner questions.

The annexation of land from Adams County to Arvada was approved unanimously, as was the rezoning to Light Industrial. Commissioner Rothschild expressed appreciation for the company's efforts in working with so many government bodies and expressed his appreciation that Wanco will remain in Arvada. These sentiments were echoed by Commissioners Caswell and Sullivan.

Rita McConnell, Planning Manager for the Community Development Department, noted upcoming Planning Commission items. On January 6, 2015, there will be a workshop at 5:30 pm, during which the staff will update the Commission on the annual APA (American Planners Association) conference. There will be a public hearing on a right-of-way vacation for Hometown South, followed by a workshop on the Land Development Code, which is in the process of being updated.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45.