An informal work session was held at 2:00 p.m. in room 200, 401 Park Avenue South, Winter Park, Florida between Commissioners Beth Dillaha and Phil Anderson regarding the Post Office, comprehensive plan amendments, strategic planning and goals, and board alternates.

Also present:
City Manager Randy Knight
Commissioner Margie Bridges (arrived at 2:08 p.m.)

Commissioner Anderson gave an update on the Post Office. He explained that they do not want to automatically extend the deadline by a year and they have concerns about the 2013 end date. He stated they would like something definitive by June 2010 and it is in the existing contract with delivery of 10% completion in June. City Manager Knight stated that they have to spend approximately $60,000 to get to the 10% design. Commissioner Anderson outlined other possible options. Mr. Knight expressed that they will be having a work session on the Post Office on December 14 and staff will need further direction from the Commission.

Commissioner Anderson commented that this is a public property issue. He suggested they propose a comprehensive plan amendment that the southern half of the Post Office property be park land in the Future Land Use Element and the northern half be Public Quasi/Public in the long term.

Commissioner Dillaha asked for Commissioner Anderson's rationale on the text amendments versus the Future Land Use Element. He stated that he spoke to Secretary of the Florida Department of Community Affairs Tom Pelham who authored "A Citizen's Planning Bill of Rights" and that requiring a supermajority vote only for text changes on comprehensive plans came out of that conversation. He commented that in his conversation with Secretary Pelham he believed the reason they limited it to text changes was to avoid definition changes and not to make map changes based on supermajority votes.

Commissioner Dillaha wanted to let the citizens vote on comprehensive plan amendments to the Future Land Use Element should they require a supermajority vote of the Commission. She provided copies from Collier County regarding the supermajority vote and amending comprehensive plans.

Board Alternates

Commissioner Anderson commented that he will ask the City Attorney at the next Commission meeting to put together a proposal that quasi-judicial boards with alternates will automatically move into the unexpired term of appointed officials.

Strategic planning

Commissioner Dillaha commented that they can discuss this further when they have their next strategic planning work session and wanted realistic initiatives that tie into the budget. She expressed wanting more information on the historic designation on assets, the conservation district, a resolution on the residential building code and the reforestation plan kick-off. She asked that the Parks and Recreation Department carry out strategic planning for implementing the goals in the master plans. City Manager Knight explained that they have quarterly updates on where they stand with those initiatives.
Commissioner Bridges stated that we are not engaging our boards to move forward with our strategic planning and that defined timelines would be more helpful.

Commissioner Anderson commented that he would like the bonds refinanced and fixed within the next 12 months before interest rates go up again.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

City Clerk Cynthia S. Bonham