

MINUTES
AUSTIN CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2010
5:30 P.M.
AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lonnie Skalicky, Jodi Krueger, Lynn Spainhower, Tony Bennett, Jeff Bednar, Kathy Stutzman, and Steve Kime

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Mino, and Shawn Martin

OTHERS PRESENT: Craig Hoium, Craig Byram, Council Member Dick Pacholl, and public

Commission Member Skalicky made a motion to approve the February 9, 2009 Planning Commission Minutes as written, seconded by Commission Member Krueger. Motion passed unanimously.

SIGN APPEAL: To consider a sign appeal request from the Crane Chapel for the placement of an additional illuminated monument sign at their property located at 1111 9th Street NE. This property is conditional land-use located in an "R-1" Single-Family Residence District with said action pursuant to City Code Section 4.50, Schedule No. VI.

Craig Hoium reviewed the request showing a graphic of the proposed sign location. The distance from the proposed sign and the property at 1104 8th St NE would be approximately 100 feet and from the property at 901 11th Ave NE it would be approximately 140 feet. The existing sign meets code requirements. The proposed sign would be ten feet from the public sidewalk to the east and sixty feet south of 11th Ave NE. The eight foot height of the sign meets requirements.

Commission Member Stutzman asked if the sign would be facing east/west or north/south.

Mr. Hoium said it would be facing north/south.

Commission Member Spainhower asked what would be illuminated on the sign.

Mr. Hoium said the top cabinet and the message center on both sides of the sign.

Commission Member Stutzman asked what kind of impact the sign may have on traffic at this intersection.

Mr. Hoium said the sign would be approximately seventy-five feet from the intersection. The sign is also on an elevated area and he does not believe it would be an obstruction.

Commission Member Spainhower asked if neighbors were contacted regarding this sign.

Mr. Hoium said this type of action does not require public notification.

Commission Member Spainhower said she drove by the proposed site and because of the elevated area the sign would be more up and out of the way.

Mr. Hoium said the message center cannot have any flashing lights.

Commission Member Skalicky said the proposed sign is nearly double the requirements and wanted to know why.

Bruce Beeman, 1910 7th Ave NE, Precision Signs, said the reasoning is so the name and the message center can both be read easily as traffic goes by. A sign like the proposed was done in Albert Lea but they went with a smaller size and it is hard to see the message center.

Dale Christenson, 509 10th St NW is the pastor for Crane Chapel. He said the existing sign is from the original church building and is more of a monument now. Approximately 3300 cars go by our church on 8th St NE every day and we feel that is our best opportunity to engage people. We have 75 children involved in Kiwanis every Wednesday and about 40 teenagers in a program also. This sign would help us to invite and draw more people into our programs. There was a sign at this location before the fire and we are just now getting around to replacing it.

Commission Member Skalicky made a recommendation to approve the sign appeal as it would not be an obstruction to traffic, seconded by Commission Member Bednar. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hoium said the sign appeal will go before the City Council on Monday, March 15, 2010. Also at that meeting the council will be putting in place a moratorium for wind turbines while we finish drafting the ordinance.

Commission Member Bennett made a motion to adjourn the Planning Commission meeting at 5:47 P.M., seconded by Commission Member Krueger. Motion passed unanimously.