

City of Austin
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**MINUTES
AUSTIN CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
TUESDAY, October 11, 2011
5:30 P.M.
AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeff Bednar, Dan Hirst, Steve Kime, Jodi Krueger, Jim Mino, Troy Nelson, and Holly Wallace

MEMBER ABSENT: Lonnie Skalicky and Lynn Spainhower

OTHERS PRESENT: Craig Byram, Craig Hoium, and public

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M. by Commissioner Mino with no corrections to the agenda. Commissioner Wallace made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 13, 2011 Planning Commission Meeting. Commissioner Kime seconded the motion and will all members in favor the motion passed unanimously.

Fence Appeal: To consider a request from Kestner Electric, 1006 8th Ave SE for a fence appeal which limits solid opaque fence heights in front yard areas to 30 inches in an "R-1" Single Family Residence District. Said action is pursuant to Austin City Code Section 4.70, Subd.5 (A)

Commissioner Mino read through the requested fence appeal and asked Mr. Hoium to explain in further detail the nature of the appeal. Craig referred to the monitor showing a site map of the location to be considered. The property is located in an R-1 District and to the North location of the property is a B-2 District. The fence ordinance states a fence located in the front yard to be not more than 30 inches in height and must be see through or open chain link for 4 foot high fencing. The property owner is requesting a 4 foot opaque no maintenance PVC fence which will be 33 feet in length. With the adjacent R.O.W. of 9th Avenue SE being a dead end road there is no sidewalk located in front of the property under review. Mr Hoium received no phone calls regarding this fence appeal, but did receive one letter from Carol Mostrom, property owner of 912 9th Avenue SE, which he read to the Commissioners.

Kevin Kestner, 506 6th Avenue NW, petitioner for the fence appeal stated that in the past there were hedges that separated the properties, but the deer ate them this year and they were removed. If this fence appeal is approved, Mr Kestner would like to replace the hedges which separated the shed from the residential property with the new fencing.

Luann Jensen, 915 9th Avenue SE, questioned where she will be able to put her snow during the winter months. Mr Kestner referred to a photo of the property on the monitor pointing out the approximately location of the fencing and stating there will be 30 inches from her driveway edge to the fence. He indicated they would be willing to assist with the snow removal at no charge when needed.

Commissioner Kime made a motion to recommend the approval of the fence appeal request and Commissioner Hirst seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business: - Rental Housing Ordinance Update

Mr Hoium explained that appointed committee has been put together and would like to develop a rental housing ordinance, but funding this program is a problem. The Fire and Police Departments have expressed an interest in having a registration list of the rental housing units. After the Rental Property Registration Form has been completed an inspection could be done of the rental property.

In the 1990's there were approximately 1800 rental units located in the City of Austin, at this time, Mr Hoium estimated it to be approximately 2000 units.

Other Business: - Community Green Initiatives

Craig Hoium indicated there will be a meeting held regarding the Community Green Steps Program on Wednesday, October 12. Mr Hoium went through various initiatives that departments within the City of Austin, Mower County, Austin Utilities, private organizations, Austin Public School District and the HRA have implemented to move our community into the right direction of becoming a green community.

Commissioner Mino requested a made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was made by Commissioner Nelson and seconded by Commissioner Wallace. The motion passed unanimously.

The Planning Commission Meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.