

MINUTES
AUSTIN CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2015
5:30 P.M.
AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rick Bremner, Laura Helle, Steve Kime, Jay Lutz, Jim Mino, Troy Nelson, and Aaron Stewart

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lonnie Skalicky and Lynn Spainhower

OTHERS PRESENT: Craig Byram, Holly Wallace and public

Commissioner Kime called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda. Commissioner Nelson made a motion to approve the May 19, 2015 Planning Meeting minutes as written. Commissioner Lutz seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

FENCE APPEAL: To consider a request from Larry Parkes, 608 3rd Street NW, Austin, Minnesota for a fence appeal based on the 12.5 foot setback required for side yards on corner lots. Said action is pursuant to Austin City Code Section 4.70, Subd. 5.

Ms. Wallace indicated this fence appeal being requested was located on a corner lot and unable to meet the required setbacks. The fence is a six foot high privacy fence which keeps out trespassers and maintains a safe area for their grandchildren. The required lot size of 6,000 square feet and this lot size is 5,000 square feet

The solid fence had already been install before the owner's realized a permit and appeal were required. There are visibility concerns due to an adjacent driveway and the code allows for a short picket fence in this area.

Larry Parkes, 608 3rd Street NW, stated that the neighbors have informed him they like the fence and know why he put it up. It has helped with the privacy and he is willing to add more visibility thru the fence.

Commissioner Mino made a motion to recommend the approval of the fence appeal to the City Council adding view ports on both the sidewalk and driveway sides of the fence within two months. Commissioner Bremner seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

FENCE APPEAL: To consider a request from Maverick Raygor, o/b/o Shari Arndt, 910 8th Street NW, Austin, Minnesota for a fence appeal based on the 12.5 foot setback required for side yards on corner lots. Said action is pursuant to Austin City Code Section 4.70, Subd. 5.

Ms. Wallace pointed out this fence appeal to be very similar to the previous appeal in that it is also a corner lot with less than 5,000 square feet and unable to meet the required setbacks. The request is being made to allow a safe area for his three small children and dog.

Maverick Raygor, 910 8th Street NW, indicated he would be adding a gate to the front and side of the fence that would be shorter in height and angle the corner of the fence from the driveway to the sidewalk to assist with visibility.

Commissioner Mino made a motion to recommend the approval of the fence appeal to the City Council with the corner design approved by the Planning and Zoning Department. Commissioner Bremner seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: To consider a request from Dante and Flor Ortiz, 3305 West Oakland Avenue, Austin, Minnesota to obtain a conditional use permit for a used car and automotive repair business, pursuant to City Code Section 11.41, Subd. 3 (D), which lists automotive service and sales as a conditional land use in a "B-2" District.

Ms. Wallace explained the property as being used for a used car/auto repair business. In the past the building had been used for an upholstery business.

Council Member David Hagen, 2907 6th Avenue SW, indicated he has received several calls regarding this property and feels with the number of vehicles located on the property they have not stopped the business operation as ordered by the City. He has observed vehicles and a trailer parked on the Econo Lodge driveway.

Dante Ortiz, 3305 West Oakland Avenue, indicated the vehicles that have been being worked on are owned by him and his father and the trailer is used to haul vehicles back from the Cities.

Nick Patel, 3203 West Oakland Avenue, owner of Econo Lodge since April 15, 2014 discussed the access easement on his property for residents. Mr. Byram explained an access easement to be limited or open and if needed, would have to further look at the easement to determine which kind it is. Mr. Patel included photos of the vehicles parked on his property including vehicles being worked on both inside and outside of the garage. He had spoken with Flor Ortiz regarding not parking on the property although this issue continued.

Commissioners discussed the issues of the lot having enough room for asphalt, lighting and screening from surrounding landowners.

Commissioner Mino made a motion to deny the Conditional Use Permit as explained. Commissioner Bremner seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: Review of transportation plan options for proposed Fox Pointe redevelopment

Ms. Wallace showed the three options for transportation plans in the Fox Pointe Redevelopment as a loop, cul-de-sac and link.

Jon Erichson, Executive Director of HRA stated this to be a Planned Unit Development property and in 2004 there were not roads. Once the economy crashed, the property went back to the bank. HRA is looking at buying the land and would not be changing the plat, but possibly requesting a rezone for a 38 townhome development. The road options are in the preliminary stage, depending on a grant award, which would happen in October 2015. There have been communications with Village Cooperative regarding the road. There will be a trail/bike system

added to the project. The Housing Study completed in 2013 showed a large need for workforce housing as there are many people working in Austin but living in another community.

Sidney Brown, 2301 10th Street NW, Apt 121A, member of the Village Cooperative Board, indicated he mailed out 50 letters for voting purposes. There is a gate they have installed blocking the thoroughfare at 10th Street and 24th Avenue NW. He commented that they would like to hang onto their driveway for the Village Cooperative.

Commissioner Helle made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Mino seconded the motion. The motion was carried and the meeting was adjourn at 7:03 pm.