

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lynn Spainhower

OTHERS PRESENT: Craig Byram, Holly Wallace and public

Commissioner Kime called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda. One change to the minutes was under Members Present, it should read Troy Nelson, not Troy Lutz. With the change, Commissioner Bremner made a motion to approve the September 15, 2015 Planning Meeting minutes. Commissioner Mino seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: To consider a request from Todd Robertson, 2208 South Broadway, Rochester, Minnesota, to amend an existing conditional use permit to allow motor vehicle repair on his property, located at 201 1st Avenue SW, Austin, MN. The property is located in a B-2 Community Business District. This action is pursuant to Austin City Code 11.56, Subd. 3(A). 11.56, Subd. 3(A).

Ms. Wallace indicated this conditional use permit is requested to amend an existing CUP for an auto sales business to also allow auto repair on the property. Mr. Robertson would like to lease to someone who wants to open an auto repair shop. The original CUP application was made in 2008. She reviewed the ordinance, conditions of usage and other considerations on the staff report. There are 14 parking stalls, including customer and accessible stalls. Notices were sent to property owners within a 350 foot radius and no calls were received regarding this request.

Charlie Fawver, 609 West Oakland Avenue, stated the original CUP had not requested an auto repair shop, it was a used car lot operated four days per week. Businesses hours requested, to allow for vehicles to be dropped off and picked up prior to work schedules, needs to be Monday thru Saturday from 6:30 am to 6:30 pm. Mr. Fawver indicated there will need to be building permits pulled for the needed changes to the existing building.

Commissioner Mino made a motion to approve conditional use permit for the auto repair shop meeting the staff report recommendations except allowing business hours Monday thru Saturday from 6:30 am to 6:30 pm. Commissioner Bremner seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

SIGN APPEAL: To consider a request from Hormel Historic Home (HHH) regarding the denial of a sign permit. Austin City Code Section 4.50, Subd. 4(B)(3), limits placement of signs; prohibiting signs on "...rocks, fences or trees." as a general requirement in all districts.

Petitioner is requesting that they be allowed to attach a sign to their fence facing the public right-of-way.

Ms. Wallace explained the sign appeal request for the sign that had been placed on a fence. There was also discussion about changing the ordinance prohibiting placing signs on trees, which the Commission ultimately determined should remain prohibited. She covered the staff report on the fence mounted sign, which included considerations and findings.

Holly Johnson, 208 4th Avenue NE, indicated this sign will help with directing visitors to the correct location along with those walking from the Spam museum. She had looked into putting the sign on the pole, but feels the sign on the fence looks better.

Commissioner Mino made a motion to approve the sign appeal as a recommendation to the city council. Commissioner Bremner seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

DISCUSSION: Interim Use Permits – review proposed ordinance.

Ms. Wallace shared with the group a proposed ordinance for Interim Use Permits. This ordinance would cover such things as a person sharing a church (commercial) kitchen temporarily to pursue a business venture, temporary agricultural uses in the city and things that would require a CUP with a time limit, which time limit is not accommodated by a CUP.

Once the Interim Use Permit Ordinance has been approved by the Planning Commission, it will then need City Council approval.

Mr. Byram indicated this ordinance allows for a tremendous amount of flexibility for the Planning Commission leaving it open ended. The Commissioner will need to be able to take much consideration with each of these requests and approve or deny them with confidence. More strict rules can be made per the zoning district and added to the ordinance. The Commission discussed meeting as a committee, but ultimately recommended moving forward with the more flexible approach.

Commissioner Bremner made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Lutz seconded the motion. The motion was carried and the meeting was adjourned at 6:29 pm.