

MINUTES

Austin City Planning Commission
Tuesday, July 14th, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Postma, Jay Lutz, Karem Salas Ramirez, Melissa Swenson, Adama Youhn, Aaron Stewart, Rita Srock

MEMBERS ABSENT: Megan Burroughs, Jim Mino

OTHERS PRESENT: Holly Wallace, City Attorney Craig Byram, Public

Commissioner Postma called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Minutes from May 12th, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Commissioner Swenson motioned to approved. Commissioner Lutz seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Roll Call below. Motion carried.

Lutz – Aye
Stewart - Aye
Swenson – Aye
Postma – Aye
Youhn – Aye
Salam Ramirez – Aye

Commissioners voted: 6 Ayes. 0 Nays.

FENCE APPEAL: Chris Soucek and Kelly Anderson are requesting a fence appeal to build a 6' privacy fence on a corner lot without setbacks on their property located at 511 4th Ave SW.

Ms. Wallace read through the description of the request made by Chris Soucek for a fence appeal to allow a 6 foot privacy fence within the 12 ½ foot setback zone on a corner lot at 511 4th Ave SW. The petitioner proposed chain link on the south property line where the sidewalk ends. The area in question is in between the house and garage. The distance from the house is 8 feet to the sidewalk, so petitioner could match fence to house because house is already non-conforming setback, but petitioner would like to extend privacy to within 2 feet of sidewalk to have an appeal for 10 feet, but when factoring in the house 6 feet. The property is a residential area with a driveway near where the fence would extend into the side yard setback. The privacy fence would have an angle to the garage to allow for better visibility. Things to consider include compatibility, feasibility and safety.

Commissioner Postma asked about the fence to the South of the driveway. Ms. Wallace explained that fence is chain link for visibility. The only privacy portion is in between the garage and house to allow for a private patio area.

Commissioner Stewart asked if only concern was the setback from the sidewalk? Ms. Wallace explained that a side yard on a corner lot is considered another front yard due to visibility issues. The question is whether they can put a privacy fence in this 12 ½ foot setback. A picket fence or a chain link would be approved but with privacy due to visibility concerns 6' or privacy would not normally be allowed due to a car driving by or a person walking down the sidewalk.

Commissioner Stewart confirmed this is a recommendation to council.

Commissioner Lutz stated this is very similar to last meeting's fence appeal and that there's no visibility issues at the front of the house, and the angle takes away the visibility issues at the sidewalk so he would favor approving the fence appeal.

Commissioner Stewart asked if the petitioner could conform with another plan. Ms. Wallace stated chain link or picket fence would conform, or they could run it from the house to garage complying with the setback and keep it privacy.

Commissioner Lutz motioned to recommend to council to approve the fence appeal. Commissioner Swenson seconded. All were in favor. None Opposed. Roll Call below. Motion carried.

Lutz - Aye
Swenson – Aye
Younn – Aye
Stewart – Aye
Salas Ramirez – Aye
Srock – Aye
Postma – Aye

Commissioners voted: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: Curtis Sorenson is requesting a rezone of his property at 1500 7th Ave NW (Parcels 34.820.0220 & 34.820.0130) be rezoned from “R-1” Single Family District to a “PD-R” Planned Unit Development/Planned Development – Residential.

Ms. Wallace stated there was a request to continue this hearing to next month's meeting.

Commissioner Stewart motioned to continue this item to the August 12th, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Youhn seconded. All in favor. None opposed. Roll call below. Motion carried.

Lutz – Aye
Youhn – Aye

Stewart – Aye
Srock – Aye
Swenson – Aye
Salas Ramirez – Aye
Postma – Aye

Commissioners voted: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Commissioner Youhn motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Srock seconded. All in favor.
None opposed. Roll call below. Meeting adjourned at 6:02 pm.

Salas Ramirez - Aye
Swenson - Aye
Lutz – Aye
Youhn - Aye
Srock – Aye
Stewart – Aye
Postma – Aye