

City of Austin
500 Fourth Avenue N.E.
Austin, Minnesota 55912-3773



Holly Wallace
Planning & Zoning Administrator
507-437-9952 / Fax 507-437-7101
Cellular 1-507-438-2380
Email: hollyw@ci.austin.mn.us

MEETING MINUTES
AUSTIN CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
TUESDAY, MAY 9TH 2023
AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
5:30 PM

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Jay Lutz, Melissa Swenson, Brad Lindberg, Jason Duffy, Rita Srock, Karem Salas Ramirez

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Jana Norman, Megan Burroughs

OTHERS PRESENT: Planning & Zoning Administrator Holly Wallace, Craig Byram

Commissioner Lutz called meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Commissioner Srock made a motion to approve the March and April minutes. Commissioner Duffy seconds. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Lutz – Aye
Swenson – Aye
Duffy – Aye
Lindberg – Aye
Salas Ramirez – Aye
Srock- Aye

Ayes – 6 Nays – 0

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: To consider a petition from Brian Bakken for a variance at 1704 20th St SW for a 15x32 garage addition.

Holly Wallace went over the proposed information as well as what the commissioners should be considering. Bakken is requesting a 15x32 addition be added to the south side of his 30x32 detached garage. There are two detached structures on the property. The property is in a R-1 district which limits the total structure square footage to 1,800. This addition will put Bakken at 2,040 sq ft though his lot coverage will only be 7%. Notices were mailed to the required neighbors with no response.

Commissioner Srock motioned to recommend to council approval of the variance as presented. Commissioner Salas Ramirez seconds. All in favor, none opposed. Motion Carried.

Lutz – Aye
Swenson – Aye
Lindberg – Aye
Duffy – Aye
Salas Ramirez – Aye

Srock- Aye
Ayes – 6 Nays – 0

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: To consider a petition from Thomas & Lisa Dunlop for a variance at 1811 16th Ave SW for a 12x20 garage addition.

Holly Wallace went over the petitioner's request. The 12x20 addition will put them at 27% lot coverage. The variance is needed due to a set back encroachment into the ROW. Commissioner Duffy questioned the petitioners if they maintain the right of way, they do. There is no curb.

Craig Byram explained that the ROW allows for future construction which may include a wider road and sidewalk. This garage addition would be about 6 inches from any potential sidewalk.

Holly Wallace did state that the city would require the petitioners to get the property surveyed prior to construction.

The petitioners were present and Thomas Dunlop spoke regarding future construction, power line locations, and the variance.

Notices were mailed to the required neighbors with no response.

Commissioner Lindberg motioned to recommend approval to council to approve the variance as presented. Commissioner Duffy 2nd. All in favor, none opposed. Motion Carried.

Lutz – Aye
Swenson – Aye
Duffy – Aye
Lindberg – Aye
Salas Ramirez – Aye
Srock – Aye

Ayes – 6 Nays – 0

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: To consider a petition from Heather Knutson for a Fence Appeal at 701 10th Ave NW.

Holly Wallace went over the petitioner's request. They are requesting a 6-foot privacy fence along their property line in the rear side yard of their corner lot. There is currently a 4ft chain link fence that is failing to keep the dogs contained. There will still be visibility from the driveway and it is set back from the alley way. Commissioner Lindberg drove by and there are similar fence situations in the area so it is not uncommon.

Commissioner Lindberg motioned to recommend approval to council to approve the fence appeal as presented. Commissioner Srock 2nd. All in favor, none opposed. Motion Carried.

Lutz – Aye
Swenson – Aye
Lindberg – Aye
Salas Ramirez – Aye
Duffy – Aye
Srock – Aye

Ayes – 6 Nays – 0

Holly Wallace stated our zoning use table has been sent to the commissioners. She is looking for feedback to update the table the goal is to allow more uses but with higher standards. i.e there is no specific standard for used car lots, should we include them instead of just using outdoor sales and/or conditional use permits.

Commissioner Swenson motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Salas Ramirez 2nd. All in favor, none opposed. Motion Carried.

Lutz – Aye

Swenson – Aye

Lindberg – Aye

Salas Ramirez – Aye

Duffy- Aye

Srock- Aye

Ayes – 6 Nays – 0

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.