

MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

May 8, 2023

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular Planning Commission meeting was held at City Hall on the 8th day of May, 2023 at 6:30 PM

**THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT:** Chairman Ferris, Commissioner Buckingham, Commissioner Fitch, Commissioner Hanson, Commissioner Egger, Commissioner Tinsley and Commissioner Johnson

**THE FOLLOWING WERE ABSENT:** None

**THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT:** City Administrator Tim Ibsch, City Clerk Linda Rappe, Ian Albers, Planning/EDA Assistant, Jake and Julie Thompson and Tim O'Morro

**CALL TO ORDER AT 6:30PM**

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** – April 10, 2023 Correction: Commissioner Tinsley was absent - **Motion to Approve with the Correction made by Commissioner Egger, second by Commissioner Fitch with All Voting Aye**

**PUBLIC HEARING – VARIANCE FOR A FENCE – THOMPSON** – Jake and Julie Thompson live at 1005 7<sup>th</sup> Ave NW they have requested permission to build a 8 to 10 foot fence in their backyard. The Sunset Trail runs along their backyard and County 21 is in their backyard. They are going to build an above ground pool and they feel a 6 foot fence wouldn't be tall enough for privacy.

Ian Albers, Planning Assistant went through some findings of fact that there are no other 8-10 foot fences in the city limits and the uniqueness is not there and there are still houses being built there and there are other houses along that street that have the same or similar topography. The variance if granted could alter the essential character of the locality.

There are options of trees or bushes or moving the fence further up the slope.

Commissioner Egger asked about bringing in fill and creating a retaining wall.

Julie Thompson stated that they would like a wooden fence 8 to 10 feet tall. They do not want to plant trees because they want mature trees.

Public hearing opened

No comments

Public hearing closed

Discussion: Chairman Ferris stated that he likes the retaining wall and fill idea. Commissioner Buckingham agreed with the retaining wall idea. Commissioner Johnson feels an 8ft fence is reasonable. Commissioner Fitch does not think putting an 8ft fence there is what we should do. Motion to deny the variance request made by Commissioner Fitch, second by Commissioner Buckingham. Ayes: Hanson, Tinsley, Fitch, Egger, Buckingham, Ferris  
Nays: Johnson

**4TH AVE LN APARTMENTS** – Staff has been tracking this and October will be a year since anything has been done.

**REZONE TO ALLOW BILLBOARD** – Mr. Albers stated that Reagan Outdoor Advertising would like to build a billboard on City property near the cemetery. They have submitted a rezone application and we will have a public hearing in June.

**WILKER'S CUP** – Mr. Albers stated that they spoke with an employee and there is a shipment of trees planned so we will be following up. They have also added some rock bays. Staff will follow up on screening to the west.

**PARK PLANNING** – Mr. Albers is taking a community survey and planning to do a presentation for the Park Board at their meeting next week. We will need to compare the comments to the Comprehensive Plan to see if they coordinate.

**OTHER** – Administrator Ibisch stated that the County is detaching their parcel on the north of 16th St NW for a county park.

Chairman Ferris asked about the parking survey and the plan is to do this once the construction is done and we will take surveys 3 times a day. The Planning Commissioners would like to see the framework and guidelines of what this would look like to the June meeting.

**ADJOURN** – 7:08pm

Respectfully Submitted,

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Linda Rappe, City Clerk