



**CITY OF LONG LAKE
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 13, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Crump.

Present: Committee Members Hultmann, Crump, Skjaret, Hoen and Loosen; City Administrator Post.

Absent: None.

APPROVE AGENDA

Commissioner Hultmann moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Skjaret seconded. Ayes: all.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes of the September 8, 2009 Joint Planning Commission and City Council Meeting

Commissioner Hultmann moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Skjaret seconded. Ayes: all.

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Hearing: Planning Case # 09-03; John Patch, 2069 Orchard Lane, Application Requesting a Front Yard Setback Variance

City Administrator Post reviewed the staff report for the Planning Commission. He provided background information regarding the property and zoning regulations. He advised that the current setbacks for the property are already non-conforming because the current regulations were adopted after the construction of the home. He reviewed the proposed plans for the porch addition and the variance findings provided by staff. He reviewed the staff recommendations and ultimately recommended approval of the request for a variance.

Chair Crump opened the public hearing at 6:44 p.m.

The applicant, John Patch, displayed an architectural sketch of the proposed addition.

Chair Crump stated that he felt that the unusual lot dimensions would also be a hardship in this instance.

Chair Crump closed the public hearing at 6:48 p.m.

Commissioner Hultmann moved to recommend approval and adopt Resolution No. 2009-29 PC recommending approval of the request for a front yard setback variance based on the findings in the staff report and resolution and the conditions noted in the staff report. Commissioner Skjaret seconded. Ayes: all.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Follow up Discussion to Joint Planning Commission and City Council Meeting

1. Green Technologies Impact on Zoning Ordinance

City Administrator Post stated that he would like to clarify the thoughts from the past meeting with the Council. He stated that he understood that the Commission would like to take a less aggressive approach in regard to green technology, which would allow for further discussion and research to be completed. He explained that while the previous thought had been to focus on that goal for the fourth quarter of 2009 it would now be a discussion in 2010.

2. Sign Ordinance

City Administrator Post stated that in regard to the sign ordinance he understood that the ordinance may require some clarification and general housekeeping. He stated that he understood that the Council and Commission would continue to keep their eyes open in regard to examples of signs.

The Commission discussed examples of lighted signs in regard to height, whether attention was drawn to the sign, and whether the vendor names on the sign were actually read.

Chair Crump advised of examples that he found in the City of Chaska that he thought were positive but confirmed that he did not read the vendors further down the sign. He discussed possible sizes for a proportional sign.

City Administrator Post advised that he had not heard any feedback from members of the City Council in regard to this issue.

Chair Crump discussed the possibility of two different sign zones within the City, as he thought that signs along new Highway 12 could be higher than those along old Highway 12. He stated that signage is going to be used and thought that the City should aim to be business friendly.

City Administrator Post stated that he would speak with the Mr. Patch in regard to the sign regulations and the discussion that had occurred to this point. He confirmed that although the ordinance needs inconsistencies removed, he thought that all the amendments and corrections should be done at once as one ordinance revision, rather than making corrections now and amending the ordinance again in the near future.

Chair Crump questioned if the Commission would like to make a recommendation to the Council in regard to support for a two tier signage district, which would allow for multiple monument signs on major frontages along the new Highway 12.

Commissioner Loosen moved to recommend to the City Council regarding the signage ordinance that the Planning Commission explore a zoning ordinance that would allow a separate signage district along the new Highway 12 that would allow for multiple signage on properties with major frontage, and would also allow increased size and aesthetic guidelines to ensure the scale and proportion of signs. Commissioner Hultmann seconded. Ayes: all.

City Administrator Post advised that the City Council would review this recommendation, along with the previous variance request at their next meeting which would take place the following Tuesday.

OTHER BUSINESS

Council Liaison Report

Nothing to report.

Commission Member Business

Commissioner Skjaret stated that another large property, the Burger King restaurant, has become vacant and questioned if the City was exploring new regulations in regard to “mothball” properties.

City Administrator Post stated that he is aware of some interest in the newly Burger King site.

Commissioner Loosen commented that he felt a little déjà vu because in the past when the issue had been brought up there was opposition to changes strengthening the “mothball ordinance”.

Commissioner Skjaret commented that he was satisfied with the new landscaping across the lake on the south side of Wayzata Boulevard.

Staff Business

City Administrator Post reported that Commissioner Hoen would not be seeking reappointment when his term expires in December this year, and advised that the position would be locally advertised. He updated the Commission on various 2009 City of Long Lake construction projects.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Hultmann moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m. Commissioner Skjaret seconded. Ayes: all.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Post
City Administrator