

City of Columbus
Public Hearing – 13517 E. Rondeau Lake Drive Variance Application (PC-16-110)
(Ally Deshong – owner, and Jacob Foerst – applicant)
April 6, 2016

The April 6, 2016 Public Hearing to receive testimony regarding the request for a variance at 13517 E. Rondeau Lake Drive, Columbus, Minnesota was called to order at 7:13 p.m. by Chair Garth Sternberg at the City Hall. Present were Commission members Jim Watson, Jesse Preiner, and Jody Krebs; City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko, and Recording Secretary Karen Boland.

Also in attendance were City Council member Bill Krebs, and Mayor Dave Povolny; Jacob Foerst, Ally Deshong, John Kinghorn, Mark Montgomery, Taro Ito, Pat Preiner and Mary Preiner.

Sternberg: Now we're gonna have a Public Hearing and discussion for 13517 East Rondeau Lake Drive variance request, pages 16 through 23. And, at this time, I'd like to ask the recording secretary to read the notice as published.

Notice was read at this time by the recording secretary.

Sternberg: Thank you. And, at this time, I'd like to ask the applicants to please come forward. And, if you could, state your name and address for the record, please.

Foerst: Hi, I'm Jacob Foerst, and my address is 13517 E. Rondeau Lake Road, Columbus. Um, actually if you don't mind if we just hop up there for a second, just to clear one thing up on this picture?

Mursko: I'm gonna, I'm just gonna rotate it (referring to overhead), because it . . .

Foerst: Alright.

Mursko: I think it's just a awkward . . . There, maybe that's a little bit easier.

Foerst: Okay. So the actual proposal for the structure is the dashed line. Um, the black marked box is actually where I would be allowed within the easement to put it, but what the GIS map doesn't show that well is the contour lines on there. I have 'em highlighted, but it does really drop off a lot, right down there, towards that wetland. And there is grass there, but it's very, very wet. So, basically, and the first thing I'd kind of like to mention is this, being that this is a corner lot, the, uh, the idea that it has two front yards, even though really the existing house had the one front yard, facing to the left, towards Rondeau Lake Road. And, you know, that road was then constructed later. Not to say that it's not fair, but, uh, you know, the idea is the property, and the way that everything is placed, it kinda has that one front yard. And, uh, the other thing is that the watershed district—I did talk to them—and they had no problem with where I had it proposed to be put, but, they did say that they might have to have another look at it if I were to have to move it, you know, further south, to the 75 feet. The main reason being is, because, if I did move it the full 75 feet, it'd be very, very close up to the driveway, in order to keep it on higher ground

without having to start filling in towards the east, towards that wetland. And it really would then constrict everything on the property. Everything's very centralized, which really restricts future use for, you know, building. I mean, it's an old farmhouse, and, eventually it'd be nice to try to do something else with it. But that really just constricts everything so much. And, uh, I guess other than that, I mean, I, I did talk to the neighbors, and both houses to the north of 136th, they, uh, they both have absolutely no problem with it. Um, they, they both just basically said, you know, it's, it's not up to them. It's, it's our property, and they really didn't have any problem with looks, height, anything, you know. They said, 'It's your decision.' And, as far as distance, the neighbor right to the north, he, I mean he says he, you know, he really can't tell distance-wise from his house anyway, and that it wouldn't bother him anymore. And, I don't know if I wrote that in there too, but it is just a ten-foot high sides, the building too, so it's not going to be a monstrosity.

Sternberg: Sure.

Foerst: I think that's about it.

Sternberg: Any questions of the applicants?

Krebs: Nope. I did go out to the site. Um, and they were very welcoming. Um, that drop-off that he's speaking of right down to the wetlands, is a huge drop off.

Watson: It's significant.

Krebs: It would be significant. And if they had to bring in, you know, dirt to have to move that 75 feet, that would be not real realistic for what they're asking to do. And they're asking for storage. They have, you know, stuff that they'd like to put in now, due to weather.

Foerst: Yeah, a lot of stuff to hide from the neighbors. It's pretty open in there so . . . And that, that is one other thing as well, is, having it further north would actually kind of keep some privacy too from those neighbors. 'Cause right now it's a pretty clear shot, you know.

Sternberg: Yeah. Well, if there's no further questions then we're going to open the hearing to the public. Is there anyone here from the public that wants to speak on the matter? Okay, then . . .

Mursko: Mr. Chair, you do have to continue this hearing to the, the City Council meeting. There was a little misunderstanding with the newspaper so we need our ten full days of public notice, even though mail notice went out, so you simply have to continue it to the Council meeting and they'll close it for you.

Sternberg: Okay. So we're going to continue this hearing—first then—yeah, we're going to continue this hearing to the City Council meeting . . .

Mursko: On April 13th.

Sternberg: On April 13th.

Hearing continued at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Karen Boland, Recording Secretary