

City of Columbus
Regular Planning Commission Meeting
August 2, 2017

The August 2, 2017 regular meeting of the Planning Commission for the City of Columbus was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Garth Sternberg at the City Hall. Present were Commission members: James Watson, Jesse Preiner, and Jody Krebs; and Recording Secretary Karen Boland.

Also in attendance were City Council members Denny Peterson and Bill Krebs; Kathy Joyce, Norma Heuer, George Schwalbe, Brenda Miller, Ron Miller, Don Santanni, William Bobick, Barb Bobick, Laura Bobick, Roger & Patsy Wismer, Mel Mettler, Pat Preiner, and Mary Preiner.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by Preiner to approve the Agenda as presented. Second by Watson. Motion carried.

APPROVAL – CITY VIEW ELECTRIC CUP AMENDMENT REQUEST PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES OF JULY 19, 2017

Motion by Krebs to approve the minutes from the City View Electric CUP amendment request Public Hearing held on July 19, 2017 as written. Second by Watson. Motion carried.

APPROVAL – RICHARD SWANSON REZONE CUP REQUEST PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES OF JULY 19, 2017

Motion by Watson to approve the minutes from the Richard Swanson Rezone CUP request Public Hearing held on July 19, 2017 as written. Second by Krebs. Motion carried.

APPROVAL – 6550 145TH AVENUE VARIANCE REQUEST PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES OF JULY 19, 2017

Motion by Preiner to approve the minutes from the 6550 145th Avenue variance request Public Hearing held on July 19, 2017 as written. Second by Krebs. Motion carried.

APPROVAL – REGULAR PC MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 19, 2017

Motion by Watson to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2017 regular Planning Commission meeting as written. Second by Preiner. Motion carried.

CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING AND DISCUSSION – 6550 145TH AVENUE VARIANCE REQUEST (PC-17-118)

At their July 19, 2017 meeting, PC members agreed that the public hearing and discussion of this request would be continued.

At this time a public hearing was held to consider a request from Pamela Olson for two variances from the required Sec. 7A-800 (C)(6)(b) that except where alternative agreements are approved by the City Council, all owners of abutting properties of the driveway must enter into a maintenance agreement in which the owners shall covenant to maintain a driveway (consistent with certain standards) and Sec. 7A-800 (C)(6)(c) that all owners of properties abutting by the driveway enter into a development agreement with the City, including but not limited to minimum provisions of granting a 66-foot wide right of way easement and public drainage, utility and trail easements over the driveway to the public, as determined by the City Council for the construction of a new home. Separate minutes are prepared.

At the applicant's request, this matter will be continued until the next Planning Commission meeting on August 16th.

PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

Don Santanni of 15225 Quinalt Street NE spoke during Public Open Forum. Mr. Santanni wanted to voice his opposition to the proposed Bituminous Roadways asphalt plant. He does not want the smell or the particulate matter it would generate. He is also worried about what will happen with the horsetrack, if this plant is approved.

Ron Miller of 15160 Quinalt Street NE also spoke during Public Open Forum. Mr. Miller does not have a lot of information about the proposed plant. PC members directed him to previous PC minutes and CC minutes. Mr. Miller asked where the proposal is in the process, if a decision has been made. PC members told him more environmental study is being done. The matter has not yet been voted on by the City Council. Mr. Miller said he would be opposed to the plant at this time. PC members told him he can submit his concerns in writing to the CC.

Kathy Joyce of 8364 144th Avenue NE also spoke during Public Open Forum. Ms. Joyce is not in favor of the asphalt plant. She said it would be two miles from her backyard and she called it a hazard to humans and animals. She said there is an operational asphalt plant in Maplewood that gives off odors for miles. Ms. Joyce is also opposed to the increased truck traffic such a plant would bring. She has horses, and is concerned about their health, both from the pollution and the truck traffic on the road where she rides. She said she moved here for specific reasons, and the addition of the plant would jeopardize those reasons. She wants the CC to know the plant is not looked upon favorably by residents.

George Schwalbe of 14319 Furman Street NE also spoke during Public Open Forum. Mr. Schwalbe is opposed to a Bituminous Roadways plant for environmental reasons. He said the bituminous plant in Northeast Minneapolis generates odors for five miles around. He is totally opposed; the environmental concerns are huge.

Mr. Santanni added that the estimated truck traffic of 500 trips a day, at peak, is a big concern for him as well. The truck traffic is already overwhelming.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The City Administrator was not in attendance.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS' REPORT

There were no Commissioner reports.

ATTENDANCE - NEXT CC MEETING

Krebs will attend the City Council meeting on August 9, 2017 in the place of Wolowski.

Motion by Krebs to adjourn. Second by Watson. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Karen Boland, Recording Secretary