

**CITY OF NORTH ST. PAUL
PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2022
6:30 P.M.**

North St. Paul City Hall – Council Chambers
2400 Margaret Street

I. CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Monge called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

COMMISSION

Elaine Barton, Commission Co-Chair
John Monge, Commission Co-Chair
Patrick Blee, Commissioner
Eric Brenna, Commissioner
Rick Gelbmann, Commissioner
Andrew Wise, Commissioner
Cameron Muhic, Commissioner
Lisa Wong, City Council Liaison

STAFF

Brandy Howe, City Planner
Lisa Ritchie, Planning Secretary

III. ADOPT AGENDA

Motion to adopt agenda by Commissioner Barton, and seconded by Commissioner Brenna, with all present voting aye (7-0). Motion carried to adopt the July 7, 2022 Agenda.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no minutes to approve.

V. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

John Schmahl expressed his concern over the inability to provide public comments during the HRA meetings. He also discussed the asbestos and lot size at the Eldridge property and suggested the Planning Commission listen to input from citizens on the Community Center renovations.

Sharon Paulson, 2231 Penn Place - expressed frustration with the lack of public notification and air quality to residents that live around Schifsky & Sons. City Planning Secretary Lisa Ritchie stated she will look into when the information was relayed to the public.

Nancy Alexander, 2231 Penn Place - commented on the decreased community support, lighting, fencing and air quality from Schifsky & Sons. Co-Chair Monge stated the Planning Commission only recommends and does not approve or deny projects. Co-Chair Barton noted meeting minutes are documented and will be referred to staff. Ms. Ritchie will follow up with code enforcement regarding lights and fencing.

Commissioner Wise agreed regarding the air quality concern as he has children that ride on the Gateway Trail. He stated light and sound are definitely enforceable issues, noting the difference in the industrial portion versus the residential portion of this area. He suggested everyone be held to the same standard. Co-Chair Monge noted the area began as an industrial area and residents have since moved into this area.

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no public hearings.

VII. COMMISSION BUSINESS ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Redevelopment Master Plan

City Planner Brandy Howe stated feedback from Commission members is in the updated plan. Ms. Howe stated she visited with EDA, City Council, and the North St Paul Business Association to gain more feedback.

The Planning Commission thanked Ms. Howe for her hard work, noting this Plan will go to the EDA for consideration next Tuesday and City Council the following Tuesday.

Co-Chair Barton commented on the median housing price for 2021 and the estimated price for 2022.

Commissioner Blees noted Commissioner Muhic should be on the list of Commission members.

Motion by Commissioner Blees, and seconded by Commissioner Gelbmann, with all present voting aye (7-0). Motion carried to recommend approval of the Redevelopment Master Plan to City Council and to state the Redevelopment Master is Generally Consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Controls.

A. Sign Ordinance Update

Ms. Howe updated the Planning Commission on additional changes that were integrated into the draft Sign Ordinance. The Planning Commission suggested moving the public hearing to August 4 and then recommend to City Council for approval.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

IX. REPORTS FROM STAFF

Ms. Ritchie updated the Commission on the progress of the downtown furniture plan stating it is currently being discussed with City Attorney Soren Mattick and will provide updates as available.

X. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISON

Council Liaison Wong noted the City Council discussed the budget and will have an inclusive process where each commission will have an opportunity to provide their own budget plan. Mac's Dinette grand opening will be tomorrow and The Sentinel Residence's grand opening will occur July 15, 2022. She stated there are currently 7 applicants for the City Manager position and hopefully that process will be completed by the end of August. It was noted the Community Center engagement is July 28 at 6:30 p.m.

XI. REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Blees mentioned that Wreaths Across America went well.

Co-Chair Monge noted the open house for the student-built house is July 13, 2022.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion to adjourn by Commissioner Barton, and seconded by Commissioner Gelbmann, with all present voting aye (7-0). Motion carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Planning Commission Meeting is Thursday, August 4, 2022 at 6:15 p.m.

Members, please notify any planned absences to: Lisa Ritchie
Planning Commission Secretary
651-747-2400
lisa.ritchie@northstpaul.org