



**Planning Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2024
6:30 PM**

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Patrick Blees called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

COMMISSION

Patrick Blees, Chair

Andrew Wise, Vice-Chair

Arthur Alvarez, Jr., Commissioner

Absent

Stephanie Kane-Burback, Commissioner

Elizabeth Gadbois, Commissioner

Cameron Muhic, Commissioner

Jim Rathe, Commissioner

STAFF/LIAISONS

Jason Nordby, City Council Liaison

Brandy Howe, Community Development Director

III. ADOPT AGENDA

Blees asked for a motion to adopt the March 7, 2024 meeting agenda.

M/Wise, S/Rathe.

Motion carried 6-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of January 4, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Gadbois corrected section VI. item b; the houses would run in the \$400,000 range.

Blees asked for a motion to approve the January 4, 2024 meeting minutes as amended.

M/Rathe, S/Wise.

Motion carried 6-0.

V. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

There were no public comments.

VI. WORKSHOP DISCUSSION

a. Fence Regulations

Howe provided the staff report detailing proposed amendments to the zoning ordinance as it relates to fence regulations.



Wise stated that it makes sense to increase the maximum height of fences in the required front yard to four feet rather than three and one-half feet. Wise indicated that other surrounding cities have a maximum height of seven feet in the side and rear yards compared to the City of North St. Paul's regulations of six and one-half feet. Wise asked why fences are not currently allowed in nonresidential districts.

Howe responded that there are screening requirements for various uses in nonresidential districts, and that the zoning ordinance is contradictory in that it does not permit fences in the districts. The Planning Commission discussed barbed wire as a prohibited fence material. They also indicated there should be clear language of when a permit for a fence is required. Blees stated he agrees with requiring written permission to connect to a neighbor's fence. Muhic inquired what the procedure should be for a property that has different grading along the property line and if there should be regulations allowing a uniform height across the property. The Commission discussed how a variance should be requested in that situation.

Blees asked if there was state statute regulating fences around pools and spas. Howe stated that there are regulations in the zoning ordinance, but will verify that they meet the requirements of the state and correct as needed. Blees recommended the zoning ordinance include an intent for screening requirements of nonresidential uses, such as where visual screening is required, the commercial property will screen views from the adjacent residential property.

VII. REPORTS

Rathe stated that he attended the City Hall open house for commissioners and City Council, and that it was great to walk through and learn about what the different departments do. Rathe thanked the participants and organizers of the event.

Council member Nordby thanked the Planning Commission and staff for their detailed conversations and contributions to the City. The City Council will hold a special workshop meeting on March 14, 2024 at 4:00pm to discuss the Community Center.

Blees stated that the North St. Paul City Cleanup Day will be held on May 11, 2024. The Citywide Garage Sale will be May 2-4, 2024.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Blees asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 PM.

M/Rathe, S/Muhic.

Motion carried 6-0.

The next regularly scheduled Planning Commission Meeting is Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 6:30 PM.

Members, please notify any planned absences to:

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