



**Planning Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 6, 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

Absent

Elizabeth Gadbois, Commissioner

Cameron Muhic, Commissioner

Jim Rathe, Commissioner

STAFF/LIAISONS

Jason Nordby, City Council Liaison

Riley Grams, Community Development Director

Chris Cherne, Planning Commission Secretary

III. ADOPT AGENDA

Blees asked for a motion to adopt the June 6, 2024 meeting agenda.

M/Wise, S/Rathe.

Motion carried 5-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of May 2, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Blees asked for a motion to approve the May 2, 2024 meeting minutes.

M/Muhic, S/Rathe.

Motion carried 5-0.

V. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

John Schmahl, 2750 Chisholm Avenue, shared his experience as a 49-year resident of North St. Paul and dealing with the effects of a survey not being required for fence installation. Mr. Schmahl asked the Planning Commission to consider adding something to the zoning ordinance that prevents fences from crossing property lines and from disturbing underground utilities.

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no public hearings.

VII. COMMISSION BUSINESS, ACTION ITEMS & RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Workshop Discussion – Introductions & Goal Setting

Community Development Director Riley Grams introduced himself to the Planning Commission. He shared his background of being Intern, City Planner, Community Development Director, Assistant City Administrator, and then City Administrator of the City of Osseo for the last 9 years. Grams shared that he graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Urban Studies and received his Master of Public Administration from Hamline University. The Commissioners in turn shared their educational and personal background.

Blees stated that a challenge that the Commission has encountered was what to include in the zoning ordinance and the idea that if the City is not going to enforce a regulation, it should not be included. The Commission must consider the reason behind regulations and whether it is appropriate to enforce them moving forward. There have been questions about off-street parking regulations for recreational vehicles. In addition, there are many aspects to be considered such as what can be parked on driveways and where the vehicles can be parked on driveways.

Blees shared that one of the things that the former Community Development Director did great was the presentation of zoning text amendments, and doing so in a clear format and outline. The action of making regulations simple and readable is a huge thing that the Commission can do to make the zoning ordinance better. Muhic concurred. Blees stated that when the Community Development Director is settled in and ready to take on this project, the Commission is ready.

Wise stated that the Commission should take a look at parking minimum requirements. There are fairly high parking minimums in the City, and that makes it tough for development in the downtown and pushes new development through many extra hoops such as planned unit developments. Wise also indicated that the Commission should take a critical look at accessory dwelling unit regulations, including size requirements and having multiple structures on a property.

VIII. REPORTS

Nordby stated that it sounds like some of the fencing regulations will be coming back to the Planning Commission. The Commission has done great work but will need to revisit some of the details at a future date.

Rathe welcomed Grams to the City of North St. Paul.

Blees stated he missed the reveal of the new Project Snowy statues, but it looked like there was a great turnout from both the sponsors and the public.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Blees asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 PM.
M/Rathe, S/Muhic.
Motion carried 5-0.

The next regularly scheduled Planning Commission Meeting is Thursday, August 1, 2024 at 6:30 PM.

Members, please notify any planned absences to:

Chris Cherne
Planning Commission Secretary
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