

- Since P&Z seems to be granting variances for fences. Concerns have been brought up previously on whether or not all of the variance criteria has been met. Since the front fence variances continue to be issued, I would like the following comments to be considered for applications for fence variances and the discussions the board is having about fences since it appears these applications will be approved in almost all cases. I have a concern that granting variances for front fences do not have minimum requirements like other applications for structures. Some of the variance applications have no plans where the fence will go.

Concerns about fences

- 6 ft high allowance is a concern. Homes in the Seminole Dr area that had “grandfathered” fences prior to the ordinance prohibiting front yard fences that were 4ft high. One grandfathered fence is 5 ft high concrete block. The only two 6 ft high fences on the street were granted a variance and an after the fact variance for illegal construction, respectively. The comments regarding the fences mostly being 4ft high can also be extended to the surrounding streets. A maximum front yard height of 4 ft would be more consistent with existing fences prior to ordinance enactment
- While the metal decorative fences can be aesthetically pleasing, a 6 ft high fence looks like a prison and does not provide the open views intended by the existing ordinance prohibiting front yard fences. It does not promote a look a neighborhood and community.
- Fences whether 4ft or 6ft only deter those who do not intend to commit crimes.
- Section 50-102 in the Code requires maximum fence height for back and side yards to be no more than 6 ft tall (with certain exceptions). A front yard fence should have different considerations since it will be viewed from the street and be front and center.
- Request that the P&Z board consider allowing fences limited to 4 ft high.
- Request P&Z consider minimum setbacks from sidewalks and roads, specify car parking allowance in front of fence so as not to interfere with sidewalk or road way traffic. Possibly minimum 1.5 - 2 feet from sidewalk. Frequently homeowners plant vegetation very close to the sidewalk which then inhibits pedestrians from fully utilizing the sidewalk and can create line of sight issues for taller vegetation (walk down Seminole Drive for example).