



CITY OF
GRAND RAPIDS
IT'S IN MINNESOTA'S NATURE

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 04, 2024

4:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: Pursuant to due notice and call thereof a Regular Meeting of the Grand Rapids Planning Commission will be held on Thursday, January 4, 2024 at 4:00 PM in City Hall Council Chambers, 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

CALL OF ROLL:

PRESENT

Commissioner Betsy Johnson
Commissioner Patrick Goggin
Commissioner Paul Bignall
Commissioner Rick Blake
Commissioner Amanda Lamppa

ABSENT

Commissioner Bill Schnell

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consider approval of minutes from the October 5, 2023 regular meeting minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Johnson, second by Commissioner Bignall to approve the minutes from the October 5, 2023 regular meeting. The following voted in favor thereof: Lamppa, Goggin, Johnson, Blake, Bignall. Opposed: None, motion passed unanimously.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

2. Consider initiating a public vacation of right-of-way

Motion by Commissioner Lamppa, second by Commissioner Johnson to approve initiating the vacation request for Part of the N/S ROW located between the N 21 FT of LTS 6-7 BLK 6, Plat of Grand Rapids. The following voted in favor thereof: Bignall, Blake, Johnson, Goggin, Lamppa. Opposed: None, passed unanimously.

3. Consider a recommendation to the City Council regarding a public vacation of right-of-way

Assistant Community Development Director Swenson provided background information.

The Commissioners reviewed the considerations for the record.

1. Is the right-of-way needed for traffic purposes?
Why/Why not? No, it is located in a parking lot so it is not needed for traffic purposes.
2. Is the right-of-way needed for pedestrian purposes?
Why/Why not? No, it is not part of a sidewalk or pedestrian route.
3. Is the right-of-way needed for utility purposes?
Why/Why not? No, there are no utilities located within the right-of-way.
4. Would vacating the right-of-way place additional land on the tax rolls?
Why/Why not? Yes, if sold it could facilitate future development.
5. Would vacating the right-of-way facilitate economic development in the City?
Why/Why not? Yes, it could be used for future development.

Motion by Commissioner Blake, second by Commissioner Lamppa that, based on the findings of fact presented here today, and in the public's best interest, the Planning Commission does hereby forward to the City Council a recommendation to approve the vacation of public rights-of-way and easements described as: Part of the N/S ROW located between the N 21 FT of LTS 6-7 BLK 6, Plat of Grand Rapids. The following voted in favor thereof: Lamppa, Blake, Bignall, Goggin, Johnson. Opposed: None, passed unanimously.

4. Consider initiating the process to review and amend Sec. 30-628 of the Zoning Ordinance (Off Street Parking for Multiple Dwellings).

Motion by Commissioner Bignall, second by Commissioner Johnson to approve the initiation of the review of an amendment to Section 30-628, changing the minimum off-street parking requirements for multiple dwellings from 2 to 1.75 units to the Zoning Ordinance. The following voted in favor thereof: Lamppa, Goggin, Johnson, Blake, Bignall. Opposed: None, passed unanimously.

5. Consider a recommendation to the City Council regarding an amendment to Section 30-628 of the Zoning Ordinance

Assistant Community Development Director Swenson provided the staff report.

The Commissioners read the considerations for the record.

1. Will the change affect the character of neighborhoods?
Why/Why not? It will allow for more green space in commercial development.
2. Would the change foster economic growth in the community?
Why/Why not? Yes, it is more development friendly.
3. Would the proposed change be in keeping with the spirit and intent of the ordinance?
Why/Why not? Yes, because it will maintain additional greenspace.
4. Would the change be in the best interest of the general public?
Why/Why not? Yes, it will allow for future development.

5. Would the change be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan?
Why/Why not? Yes, it is already addressed in the Comprehensive Plan and we currently have under utilized parking lots.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Individuals may address the Planning Commission about any non-public hearing item or any item not included on the Regular Meeting Agenda. Speakers are requested to come to the podium, state their name and address for the record and limit their remarks to three (3) minutes.

MISCELLANEOUS:

REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES:

6. Reminder we will be holding land use training workshop on January 29th from 4:00 to 8:00 pm at Grand Rapids City Hall - Jay T. Squires will be the presenter.

Assistant Community Development Director Swenson provided information on the topics that will be covered at the training.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:21 P.M.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024 AT 4:00 PM.

Hearing Assistance Available: This facility is equipped with a ready assistance system.

ATTEST: Aurimy Groom, Administrative Assistant