

Mai Vang

From: Richard Kedrowski
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2023 11:40 AM
To: Marcia Moermond
Cc: Mai Vang; Joanna Zimny
Subject: Re: 643 Earl

Hi Marcia,

Although the area around the garage was clear, there is still a significant amount of wood and other items in the rear yard. Please see attached photos. Please let me know if you would like me to have the file re-opened. If so, please let me know which one. I am assuming it will be the one that Nhia filed originally.

Thanks
Dick





Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 19, 2023, at 10:59 AM, Marcia Moermond <marcia.moermond@ci.stpaul.mn.us> wrote:

Here you go, Dick,



Sonya Humes, owner, appeared via phone

[Moermond gives background of appeals process]

Staff report by Supervisor Lisa Martin: Dec 19, 2022 we issued a Summary Abatement Order to remove and dispose of scrap wood, buckets, and PVC pipe from rear yard. Compliance was for December 22. Photos are in the file.

Moermond: what are you looking for today?

Humes: my backyard is only 30 by 20 feet. It is enclosed. How this issue came about was I am trying to install a French drainage system to keep my basement and garage from leaking. I ran out of time. I can't go back there and cleanup because all the materials are for a deck I plan to build. That's what the inspector is seeing. And they only saw that because my gate was kicked in.

Moermond: does this have an alley?

Humes: yes, my garage faces the alley.

Moermond: I see a photo from the alley with your garage door and the stuff piled against the garage in the buckets. You are saying you cannot move it because it is frozen?

Humes: yes, they're frozen. So is the stuff in the back yard. If you're asking how it got there to begin with, I was paying a friend of a friend to move material for the French drain. I begged them to come clean it up. I let it go since it was a friend of a friend, by the time they decided to come it was frozen. I can't do anything back there.

Moermond: is it a single or double garage?

Humes: technically it's a garage and a half. I can only fit my VW in there.

Moermond: I'm seeing aerial photos taken by the City and then Google and it looks like you've had building materials there (in the backyard) for quite a while. Does that sound right?

Humes: yes. Waiting for someone to come and start. To finish. I ran out of options and time. There should be a ladder back there that I need. You'll see some wood, PVC against the garage. Maybe you can't see the rocks under the snow. There's a mound of rock and then the deck will go over that when the drainage system gets put in. That deck will go to the back year.

Moermond: you have to get this under control or store the building supplies elsewhere. We've reached the end of the line on that. Hopefully you can find a contractor. Building supplies can't just hang out indefinitely waiting for a permit to be pulled.

Humes: if I can pull a permit those materials can stay?

Moermond: they have to be in use and stored properly. When I see wood stored outside in this weather that isn't considered proper storage of building materials. But I note that as an issue and a building permit won't get you an indefinite extension either. I'd like to get a timeline for this to be addressed. It has been a problem for a long time. Sounds like you need to hire someone who will start and finish the project.

Humes: absolutely.

Moermond: I'd like to see a proposal for dealing with what is visible from the alley and piled near the garage so there is some visible effort on your part to get this under control. Stage it so the materials in the back yard have a different deadline. What can you propose? Or would you like time to think about it?

Humes: what is against the garage is frozen into dirt.

Moermond: and salt will loosen it up. You have tall items with leverage available. A timeline is reasonable on the City's part. If I went to pick up the bucket would a kick do it to pick it up? I think so.

Humes: no, it is frozen in dirt.

Moermond: then I'd buy some salt and come up with a proposal for dealing with this. I want to work with you but I need you to meet me partway. I'm seeing a nuisance that has been there for years. You are asking for an indefinite extension. Please think about what you will do.

Humes: best I can do is try and get the salt around the outside of the garage. The wood against the garage, we just ran out of room. I said this is something else. I have to start all over again and he has recommended the Dirt Monkey but everything is frozen. The soonest I can address this is in the spring. I want it done. I can't get to my garage.

Moermond: I am hearing you want to work on the backyard sooner than later, which is great. I'm wanting to help you there. I'm looking for some progress. Being impassible creates an additional incentive. Why don't you come back with specific dates unless you want me to put something on the record now?

Humes: I can put together a proposal after speaking with a couple companies. As I said though, another issue is that kind of work will cost \$5,000 to \$10,000. That's the largest hang-up. That's why I tried to go with someone else and it didn't work out.

Moermond: so you will have a proposal and we talk again next Tuesday?

Humes: I'm an RN and I work nights. Next Tuesday is the 10th? Ok. How should I get these proposals to you?

Moermond: I need a date from you. I think a couple weeks for what is next to the garage and mid-summer for the backyard being done, whether that's storing the materials or having the project done.

Humes: thank you, thank you. I understand it is a nuisance against the garage. I can work on that the best I can.

Moermond: let's just say January 19th for getting the area next to the garage cleaned up and give until July 17, 2023 to finish the project. That means the materials are used or stored elsewhere.

Humes: that is agreeable. I want it done. I want to use my yard.



Marcia Moermond

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