

Moermond, Marcia (CI-StPaul)

From: Moermond, Marcia (CI-StPaul)
Sent: Wednesday, July 11, 2018 1:20 PM
To: 'Jim Brewer'
Subject: RE: 1940 Fairmount Avenue - July 24th Hearing

Good Afternoon Mr. Brewer,

The Legislative Hearing for this appeal has been scheduled for July 24, 2018 at 11 a.m. I will make sure your email is attached to the record.

Sincerely, Marcia Moermond
Legislative Hearing Officer
Saint Paul City Council

From: Jim Brewer [mailto:brewjl@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, July 11, 2018 10:32 AM
To: Moermond, Marcia (CI-StPaul) <marcia.moermond@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: 1940 Fairmount Avenue - July 24th Hearing

Ms. Moermond,

My name is Jim Brewer. I live at 1987 Goodrich Avenue and am writing to you about a tall grass/weeds complaint that I made in June on the duplex at 1940 Fairmount Avenue. I understand there is a hearing scheduled on July 24th pertaining to the clean-up of this property. I'd like to summarize some of my maintenance issues with this property over the last eight years:

- 1) Shortly after the property was purchased by the current owner, someone (worker, owner?) dug a large hole adjacent to the east side of the building and extending to the edge of the city sidewalk. The excavated soil was stockpiled on the garage apron where it sat for several years sprouting weeds and running off onto the sidewalk. The excavated area was not re-seeded, re-sodded, or planted and so, consequently, weeds sprouted up. At times I have seen stands of ragweed over five feet high in this area.
- 2) The grass in the yard only gets mowed when it is beyond mowable height, and so the yard looks more like a chopped up hay field. The owner, at one time, had a tenant who was responsible for the mowing but would only allow her to use a push-type reel mower. It is impossible to cut tall grass and weeds with a manual reel mower, so the poor tenant would make a couple of attempts and then give up in exasperation, resulting in a half-mown lawn - kind of like a perpetual bad haircut. To the owner's credit, a power mower was purchased this year and the boulevard and front yard have been cut once this summer - not to my standards, but a step in the right direction.
- 3) A few years ago the owner employed a worker to dig out several large foundation plantings from the front of the building facing Fairmount. The shrubs were dug out with root balls intact and left on the premises for months. Some times they would get dragged on to the sidewalk or boulevard and on one occasion, one of the shrubs was found sitting in the middle of Prior Avenue. I called the City Complaint office about this and eventually the shrubs were removed.
- 4) The garage apron facing Prior is a permanent stockpile area for debris, brush, weeds and soil. It is a major eyesore to anyone traveling down Prior.

5) The owner does not shovel the public sidewalk -ever.

6) A back door stoop/second floor balcony project was started over a year ago and not finished. Site restoration from the foundation work done around the same time was not completed.

To summarize, I cannot remember a time when the yard of 1940 wasn't in a state of disarray, and there is clearly a history of the owner not having any regard for the concerns of her neighbors.

When you make your determination on whether to perform the clean-up or not, please take into consideration that this property has been an eyesore for over eight years. Several neighbors have offered to help the owner with clean-up and restoration, but the offers have been declined.

Sincerely,

Jim Brewer
651-341-3825