

**Saint Paul Planning Commission
City Hall Conference Center
15 Kellogg Boulevard West**

Minutes July 11, 2014

A meeting of the Planning Commission of the City of Saint Paul was held Friday, July 11, 2014, at 8:30 a.m. in the Conference Center of City Hall.

Commissioners Present: Mmes. McMahan, Noecker, Reveal, Shively, Thao, Underwood, Wang, Wencel, and Messrs. Gelgelu, Makarios, Ochs, Ward and Wickiser.

Commissioners Absent: Mmes. *DeJoy, *Merrigan, *Padilla, and Messrs. Connolly, Edgerton, *Lindeke, *Nelson, and Oliver.

*Excused

Also Present: Donna Drummond, Planning Director; Jake Reilly, Jamie Radel, and Sonja Butler, Department of Planning and Economic Development staff.

I. Swearing in of New Commissioners.

New Planning Commission member Melanie McMahon was sworn in by Shari Moore, City Clerk.

II. Approval of minutes May 16, 2014 and May 30, 2014.

MOTION: *Commissioner Reveal moved approval of the minutes of May 16, 2014. Commissioner Shively seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.*

and

MOTION: *Commissioner Reveal moved approval of the minutes of May 30, 2014. Commissioner Thao seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.*

III. Chair's Announcements

Chair Wencel welcomed the commissioners back from a month of no meetings, however moving forward there are plenty of items on the upcoming agendas.

IV. Planning Director's Announcements

Donna Drummond announced that earlier in June City Council approved the T2 Transit Street Amendments recommended by the Planning Commission. The streetcar study public hearing at City Council on Wednesday, July 9th Councilmember Bostrom had spoken against it but had to leave before the final vote so there was a 6-0 vote, all of the councilmembers spoke at length about their views on this, which the public hearing discussion can be heard online. There is a

new Planning & Economic Development Director who has been appointed, he will start August 4, 2014, Jonathan Sage-Martinson the head of the Central Corridor Funders Collaborative. Also the Green Line opened so hopefully everyone has or will ride the train.

V. PUBLIC HEARING: Amendments to Chapter 64-Signs – Item from the Comprehensive Planning Committee. (*Jake Reilly, 651/266-6618*)

Chair Wencl announced that the Saint Paul Planning Commission was holding a public hearing on the proposed amendments to Chapter 64-Signs. Notice of the public hearing was published in the Legal Ledger on June 5, 2014, and was mailed to the citywide Early Notification System list and other interested parties.

Jake Reilly, PED staff, gave a brief presentation on the proposed amendments to Chapter 64-Signs. The amendments include: minor text amendments to correct typographical errors, correct citation errors and enhance language for clarity and clearing up interpretation issues encountered during enforcement; accommodations for signs proposed for the new municipal ballpark in Lowertown; roof-top signs in B4 Central Business and B5 Central business service districts through a conditional use permit process with required standards and conditions; amendments to references to bus stop shelters; and accommodations for sponsorship signs on bicycle sharing facilities (currently served by Nice Ride).

Mr. Reilly stated the proposed amendments for roof signs:

- (a) Roof signs may be permitted only in the B4-B5 business districts, subject to a conditional use permit.
- (b) Context, location, and surroundings are to be considered when looking at the conditional use permit which allows conditions to be imposed, including height, width, location, orientation, illumination, and how it is attached to the building.
- (c) Roof signs shall face and be designed to be read by traffic on adjoining streets as designated in the comprehensive plan. A facility fronting on only one (1) street is permitted to have one (1) roof sign; a facility fronting on two (2) or more streets is permitted to have two (2) roof signs.
- (d) For roof signs consisting of lettering with no defined background and that allow visibility through the sign through the spaces, the roof sign area shall be defined as the smallest area encompassing all of the words, numerals, figures, designs, or trademarks, as well as any ornamental strip, border, or design around the edges of the sign, and shall be reduced by fifty (50) percent in calculating the permitted roof signage.
- (e) If the zoning administrator determines that the sign lighting affects neighboring properties, roof signs shall not be illuminated overnight, either from midnight or from one (1) hour after the end of any facility event, whichever is later, until 6:00 a.m.
- (f) Roof signs with dynamic display are prohibited.

Mr. Reilly then presented the amendments regarding transit stop signage. He stated that advertising signs at LRT stations are not addressed in Chapter 64 - Signs, nor are they addressed in other sections of the city's legislative code. Bus stops are addressed, and those provisions are recommended to be amended in order to accommodate advertising on LRT and street car shelters, as well as bus stop shelters, by changing the word "bus" to "transit."

Finally, Mr. Reilly presented a new section of the code regarding sponsorship signs on bicycle

sharing facilities (Nice Ride). He stated that Nice Ride facilities are supported through sponsorship signs on the non-map side of the kiosk. Because Nice Ride is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, they must follow specific rules outlined by the IRS regarding sponsorship signs. However, the signs on the Nice Ride kiosks meet the definition of “advertising sign” in the Saint Paul Zoning Code, which prohibits advertising signs in all zoning districts. Proposed amendments would allow sponsorship signs on bicycle sharing facilities, in a similar manner to transit stop shelters in all zoning districts. Minnesota Statutes, Section 160.27 Subd. 7 authorize the placement of bicycle racks with or without signage in the public right-of-way, subject to approval by the appropriate road authority.

Mr. Reilly presented the bicycle sharing amendment Sec. 64.422 which would permit bicycle sharing facility sponsorship signs in all zoning districts subject to the following required standards:

- (a) One (1) sponsorship sign, no more than fifteen (15) square feet in area, is permitted per bicycle sharing facility. The sponsorship sign shall be an integral part of the bicycle sharing facility rack.
- (b) The sponsorship sign shall primarily provide identifying information for a sponsor such as name, address, telephone number, or logo; any product advertising shall be incidental and secondary to sponsor identification.
- (c) Signs shall not be illuminated.
- (d) Signs shall be maintained in good condition.
- (e) Signs within the public right of way are subject to, and must first have and maintain, a permit from the designated road authority.

Chair Wencl read the rules of procedure for the public hearing.

No one spoke.

Mr. Reilly noted that two letters of public testimony had been received from the owners & managers of the Northwestern Building and St. Paul Saints Professional Baseball organization, as well as from the Saint Paul Parks and Public Works departments.

MOTION: *Commissioner Noecker moved to close the public hearing, leave the record open for written testimony until 4:30 p.m. on Monday, July 14, 2014, and to refer the matter back to the Comprehensive Planning Committee for review and recommendation. Commissioner Reveal seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.*

VI. Zoning Committee

SITE PLAN REVIEW – List of current applications. *(Tom Beach, 651/266-9086)*

One item came before the Site Plan Review Committee on Tuesday, July 8, 2014:

- Bad Weather Brewing, reconfigure existing parking lot for new brewery/brew pub (brewery will use existing building) at 414 West 7th Street.

One item to come before the Site Plan Review Committee on Tuesday, July 15, 2014:

- Crestview Apartments, improvements to existing parking lot to deal with drainage

problems at 1171 Westminster.

NEW BUSINESS

#14-293-465 Saint Paul Domestic Abuse Intervention Project – Conditional use permit for reuse of a nonresidential structure for an office, with modification of consent petition condition. 390-394 Dayton Avenue between Western and Arundel. (*Jamie Radel, 651/266-6614*)

Commissioner Thao

Commissioner Reveal

Commissioner Thao

Commissioner Reveal

MOTION: *Commissioner Reveal moved the Zoning Committee's recommendation to approve the conditional use permit subject to an additional condition. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.*

Commissioner Reveal announced the item on the agenda for the next Zoning Committee meeting on Thursday, July 17, 2014.

VII. Cultivating Economic Prosperity throughout Ramsey County – Informational presentation by Ryan T. O'Connor, Director, Policy & Planning, Office of the County Manager.

Ryan O'Connor, Director of Policy & Planning gave an

VIII. Comprehensive Planning Committee

Commissioner Reveal announced that at their last meeting

IX. Neighborhood Planning Committee

Chair Wencil announced that the Neighborhood Planning Committee meeting on Wednesday, July 16, 2014 has been cancelled.

X. Transportation Committee

Donna Drummond, Planning Director, reported that at the last meeting

Commissioner Wang announced the item on the agenda for the next Transportation Committee meeting on Monday, July 14, 2014.

XI. Communications Committee

Commissioner Thao had no report.

XII. Task Force/Liaison Reports

Commissioner Reveal announced that the final draft for the West Side Flats

Commissioner Makarios

Chair Wencil reported that the Gateway Station Area Planning Task Force

Chair Wencil announced that the Facilities Management Plan

XIII. Old Business

None.

XIV. New Business

None.

XV. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Recorded and prepared by
Sonja Butler, Planning Commission Secretary
Planning and Economic Development Department,
City of Saint Paul

Respectfully submitted,

Approved _____
(Date)

Donna Drummond
Planning Director

Daniel Ward II
Secretary of the Planning Commission

Planning Team Files\planning commission\minutes\July 11, 2014