



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

Minutes August 18, 2023

A meeting of the Planning Commission of the City of Saint Paul was held Friday, August 18, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. in the Conference Center of City Hall.

Commissioners Present: Mmes.: Grill, Starling and Thomas
Messrs.: Rangel Morales, Hackney, Holst, Hood, Martinson, Moore, Ochoa, Ortega, Reilly, Risberg, Syed and Taghioff

Commissioners Absent: Mmes: Presley
Messrs: Houmas and Khadar

Also Present: Luis Pereira; Planning Director, Karoline Finlay; Planning Secretary, Samantha Langer; Zoning Secretary, Emma Brown; Senior City Planner, Chris Hong; City Planner, Planning and Economic Development and YaYa Diatta; Zoning Administrator, Department of Safety and Inspections.

I. Approval of minutes for the August 4, 2023 Planning Commission Meeting

Minutes will be reviewed and approved at the September 1, 2023 Planning Commission meeting.

II. Chair's Announcements

Planning Chair Rangel Morales asked if any of the commissioners are interested in joining the Communications and Nominations Committee. Commissioner Thomas has expressed interest in joining and chairing the committee.

III. Planning Director's Announcements

Director Pereira announced the National American Planning Association is happening in Minneapolis next year. The conference needs forty mobile workshops and two hundred sessions on national topics. Director Pereira asked for commissioners to let him know if they are interested in participating in the conference. Some of the topics being discussed for mobile workshops are: Rondo, the Inheritance Fund, Lowertown, River Balcony, Capital City Bikeway, Keg & Case and the Schmidt Brewery and Midway among others. PED staff will be meeting with planners from Minneapolis next week to collaborate on proposals for the national conference. The deadline to submit proposals is September 22. Director Pereira is working with Senior City Planner Spencer Miller-Johnson and City Planner Chris Hong on these proposals for Saint Paul.

IV. Zoning Committee

The August 10 meeting was canceled. Commissioner Reilly reported to the commission that the next Zoning Committee has one agenda item. The committee will be discussing a conditional use permit at 50-76 Kellogg Blvd. W. Commissioner Reilly asked for any interest this fall for someone to take over chairing the Zoning Committee. Commissioner Grill volunteered to chair the committee.

V. Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Committee

Commissioner Holst gave the report for the committee. The Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Committee last met on July 26, 2023.

1-4 Unit Housing Study Phase 2 – Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Committee recommendation on the zoning code amendments. (*Emma Brown, 651/266-6657*)

Senior City Planner Emma Brown presented on the additional amendments to be considered by the commissioners, informed by the Commission's conversation on this study on August 4th. Those amendments are for: Fence height standards for backlots, clarifications for cluster development standards and RL-H2 maximum building heights; and dimensional standards for non-residential uses in RL-RM1.

Ms. Brown's presentation also included photo examples of the different types of residential building that would be allowed under the proposed zoning amendments in the new zoning districts that would be created. During Ms. Brown's presentation the commissioners engaged in a discussion on the proposed amendments as well asked several questions of Ms. Brown and Director Pereira.

The recommendations from the Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Committee are:

The committee recommends approval of the proposed zoning code text amendments. The committee amended its recommendation to include fence standards and clarifications regarding maximum building heights based on the discussion during the August 4, 2023 Planning Commission meeting and this meeting.

The commissioners engaged in a lengthy discussion regarding the maximum building heights prior to voting on the motion that was on the floor. Commissioner Hood proposed a friendly amendment to the motion to increase the height limits. Increase the height limits in RL large lot from 30' to 35', H1 from 33' to 35' and in H2 from 39' to 40'. Keeping a 36' height maximum for shed roofs. Commissioners

Holst and Hackney approved of the friendly amendment. Planning Chair Rangel Morales called a roll-call vote for the motion.

There were three motions based on the recommendation of the Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Committee.

MOTION: Commissioner Holst moved the committee recommendation to the City Council to approve the proposed 1-4 Unit Housing Study Phase Zoning Text Amendments as presented with the friendly amendments related to height to increase allowable building heights. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hackney. The motion failed during a roll-call vote. The commissioners voted 7-8 against.

After some discussion regarding the motion a second motion was made by Commissioner Taghioff to remove the proposed dimensional standards for institutional uses. The motion did not receive a second. A third motion was made.

MOTION: Commissioner Reilly moved to approve the staff recommendation as it was originally presented to the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Martinson. The motion passed unanimously during a roll-call vote.

VI. Transportation Committee

Commissioner Martinson gave the report for the committee. The next meeting is scheduled for August 21, 2023 and the committee will receive an update on the Purple Line rapid transit bus line.

VII. Communications-Nominations Committee

Planning Chair Rangel Morales again stated that the Communications and Nominations Committee is in need of new members. Commissioner Thomas has volunteered for the committee, and she will also become its new chair. If any other commissioners are interested in joining this committee to please reach out to the Planning Chair.

VIII. Task Force/Liaison Reports

None.

IX. Old Business

None.

X. New Business

None.

XII. Adjournment

10:40 a.m.

Recorded and prepared by:
Karoline Finlay, Planning Commission Secretary
Planning and Economic Development Department,
City of Saint Paul

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved 9/1/23
(Date)



Luis Pereira
Planning Director



Jeffrey Risberg
Planning Commission Secretary