

Planning Commission
April 4th, 2016

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Planning Commission meeting was held on April 4th, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at Sartell City Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Orman, Ryan Fitzthum, Glenn Persen

MEMBERS ABSENT: Anna Gruber, Dawn Moen

OTHERS PRESENT: Nate Keller, Community Development Technician
Mike Nielson, City Engineer
Colby Warzecha, Student Liaison

Orman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

AGENDA REVIEW AND ADOPTION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FITZTHUM TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY PERSEN. UPON VOTE BEING TAKEN THE FOLLOWING VOTED:

AYE: ORMAN, FITZTHUM, PERSEN

NAY: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PERSON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 7TH, 2016 MEETING PENDING CORRECTIONS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY FITZTHUM. UPON VOTE BEING TAKEN THE FOLLOWING VOTED:

AYE: ORMAN, FITZTHUM, PERSEN

NAY: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

PRESENTATION – JEFF SCHWIEBERT SARTELL/ST STEPHEN SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

Schwiebert presented an overview to the Planning Commission on the need and reasoning behind the 2016 bond referendum. Schwiebert provided details on the following information related to the bond: existing facility limitations and constraints, property tax impacts, security upgrades, proposed improvements to existing and new facilities including a new high school, location of new high school, current and forecasted enrollment numbers, date of bond referendum vote (May 24th).

Fitzthum brought up the importance of improving the existing conditions along Pinecone Rd N. With the increase in traffic the need to widen the road and install sidewalks and pathways will be essential in making the transition to the new high school location safe and successful.

OLD BUSINESS

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT – 50TH AVENUE

Scott Mareck of WSB provided a presentation highlighting the findings from the 2016 Environmental Assessment Reevaluation. Mr. Mareck updated the Commission on the changes from the original 2009 Environmental Assessment.

Fitzthum had questions and concerns regarding the intersection of 2nd St S and 4th Ave S and the projected traffic increases due to the new roadway. Staff mentioned that while the intersection is not part of the EA they do agree that intersection improvements should be looked at for this intersection. Staff mentioned intersection control devices may be limited due to spacing constraints in relation to the proposed stoplight being planned for the Kwik Trip site at 2nd ST S and Co RD 78 which is only about a quarter mile away.

Sartell resident Mark Skaj mentioned concerns regarding the narrow road on 50th Ave and the potential increases in traffic on that roadway.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FITZHUM TO APPROVE THE EA ASSESMENT FOR 50TH AVE WITH A CONDITION OF CONSIDERATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS AT THE 2ND ST S AND 4TH AVE S INTERSECTION. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY PERSON. UPON VOTE BEING TAKEN THE FOLLOWING VOTED:

AYE: FITZHUM, PERSON, ORMAN.

NAY: NONE

MOTION CARRIED

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT CONSIDERATION – BEEKEEPING

Keller explained the city has received 6-7 inquires within the past month and a half regarding the keeping of bees within single-family districts. Currently the city only allows bees and non-domesticated animals within the Agriculturally zoned areas. Keller highlighted sample ordinances from Cold Spring, St. Louis Park, and Sauk Rapids. Keller also highlighted what some of the surrounding communities (St. Cloud, LeSauk Township, St. Joseph, St. Stephen, Waite Park,) have in place regarding bees.

Jesse Jaskolka 210 5th ST NE, Sartell spoke in support of an amendment to the city's ordinances which would support having honey bees within single-family zoned districts. Mr. Jaskolka highlighted the benefits of having honey bees including: beautification in city parks and gardens, concerns over colony collapse disorder, eliminating fears of bees and highlighting honey bees only sting in defense of the nest and when they are stepped on or attacked, the importance of encouraging bee keeping versus restricting it, the contribution honey bees play in production of our food, and highlighting research which shows only about 2% of the population is actually allergic to stinging insects and only a fraction are actually allergic to honey bee stings (venom from honey bees and other insects like wasps, hornets, and yellow jackets slightly varies).

Paul Theis, LeSauk Township spoke in support of an ordinance to allow honey bees within residential areas. Theis spoke on how there are many hives located around the city limits of Sartell. Theis also spoke as an experienced bee keeper and provided further insight into honey bees and proper management of them.

Jim Kerr, St. Cloud spoke in favor of an amendment allowing honey bees within residential districts.

Fitzthum did not want to restrict honey bees but felt there should be some regulations to prevent nuisance conditions and proper management of those who may wish to keep honey bees.

Orman mentioned proper precautions should be taken if the city elects to allow honey bees within residential areas and all viewpoints including those who do not want honey bees within residential areas should be carefully considered and weighed. Orman voiced concern over improperly managed hives and

the curiosity of children who may be inclined to disturb a hive either intentionally or by accident (E.g. A baseball being hit over the fence and a child getting the ball not knowing of the hive nearby).

The Commission recommended to continue the discussion of honey bees at the next meeting when all the Commission members are in attendance. Staff will continue researching ordinances and craft potential ordinance amendments for review.

OTHER BUSINESS

Project Updates

Keller provided updates on the following issues:

- 15th ST N Corridor study
- Pinecone Marketplace development
- Arbor Trails development
- Televising PC meetings (will be discussed next meeting)
- Introduction of new student liaison Colby Warzecha
- Adding discussion for detached garages and maximum square footage for accessory buildings to next month's agenda

Orman would like to add discussion of the role and responsibilities of the Planning Commission to the agenda of the next meeting.

ADJOURN

FITZHUM MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:05PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY PERSON. UPON VOTE BEING TAKEN THE FOLLOWING VOTED:

AYE: FITZHUM, PERSON, ORMANN

NAY: NONE

MOTION CARRIED MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:05PM.

Minutes by:

Nate Keller, Community Development Technician