

The Planning Commission Meeting was called to order by Chair Katy Ross at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Meeting Room, 100 Village Center Drive Suite 150, City of North Oaks. Also present were Commissioners David Pfuhl, Nancy Reid, Joyce Yoshimura-Rank, Bob Turkington, and Kara Ries. Commissioner Paul Lesieur was absent. City Administrator Mike Robertson, Administrative Assistant Mary Belden, Videographer Maureen Anderson, and City Planner Jim Robinson were also present.

Approval of Agenda

Chair Ross requested that one more item be added to the City Update. Commissioner Yoshimura-Rank moved to approve the Agenda with the addition. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Reid and passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Reid moved to approve the Minutes from the March 30, 2017, Planning Commission Meeting with corrections. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Yoshimura-Rank and passed unanimously.

New Business

Comprehensive Plan

City Planner Robinson presented the Utilities Section of the Comprehensive Plan. He reviewed the location of the trunk sewer lines. Commissioner Ries asked to clarify the boundary lines of the Map 15 and to change the language from "on-site sewage treatment systems" to "ISTS". Commissioner Reid suggested ways to make Table 14 easier to read. Commissioner Ries had a question regarding the dump site and asked if it could be made clearer. Robinson suggested that the use of a map would help to clarify this. Administrator Robertson asked Robinson to review the amount of available acreage in the Village Center. Chair Ross had a question about the use of low or no phosphorus fertilizers in the city. Commissioner Reid had some suggestions for clarification to Map 15. There was discussion about septic systems in North Oaks and the requirement that each lot needs to be able to support two septic systems if necessary. Robertson also noted that he has spoken to White Bear Township and they are using the same numbers represented on Table 15 in their sewer and water plans

Commissioner Yoshimura-Rank had a question about the possibility that North Oaks may someday have to convert all of their on-site septic systems to sewer and there was discussion about that and the costs involved. Administrator Robertson said that such an action would have to be ordered by the State. He said that unless the State provided some money to reduce costs that that assessments to individual property owners would be so high that they would be impossible to justify.

Chair Ross asked if the North Oaks' Comprehensive Plan was comparable in size to other city's plans. Mr. Robinson said it is about average in length. Chair Ross also wondered about having more community meetings to give the residents a chance to give feedback on the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Robinson responded that it has been Sambatek's experience that it is difficult to get people to attend those meetings. Administrator Robertson said that the plan would be sent to adjoining communities

and to such entities as VLAWMO, North Oaks Company and Ramsey County with all of them encouraged to send comments or attend the public hearing. Mr. Robinson suggested an executive summary of the Comprehensive Plan so that it is easier to read and understand.

Survey

Chair Ross said the City Council was interested in a community survey and asked for more information about potential questions and costs. Administrator Robertson said a sample questionnaire will be reviewed at the next Council meeting. If they proceed he will recommend that representatives from the Planning Commission and Natural Resources Commission be included in any committee that will develop questions. Chair Ross asked that the sample questionnaire be sent to the Planning Commissioners.

City Update

Administrator Robertson said that the Catbird Lane CUP for a larger garage was approved by Council. He spoke with Gary Eagles of NOC about the 5 acre park next to Black Lake in Red Forest Way and the plan was it would be trails and an overlook area. City Planner Robinson talked about adding language to comprehensive plan about this park development. Commissioner Yoshimura-Rank would like the conservation area noted on the map.

Chair Ross reported on the house height committee whose members are Commissioners Ries and Lesieur, Councilmembers Nelson and Ross and Administrator Robertson. The committee will meet next week to address some of these house height issues in the City.

Commissioner Ries did some research on the differences between CUP and variances and she suggested that the Planning Commission educate the public how it is done in North Oaks.

Next Meeting

The next Planning Commission Meeting is Thursday, May 25, 2017, at 7 p.m. at the Community Meeting Room, 100 Village Center Drive.

Adjournment

On motion made by Commissioner Reid, seconded by Commissioner Ries and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Attest:

Respectfully submitted,

Chair Katy Ross

Michael Robertson
City Administrator