

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION BOARD HELD ON FEBRUARY 19, 2013, AT 7:00 P.M., AT THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M., by Jack Edmonds. Members present were Mitzi Mellott, Tim Siercks, Dick Dobson, and Chad Heitschmidt. Staff present were Carie Fuhrman and Mary Lou DeWitt.

OATH OF OFFICE:

Chad Heitschmidt took the Oath of Office.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON JANUARY 22, 2013

DOBSON MOVED, SECOND BY SIERCKS, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 22, 2013. UPON THE VOTE, THERE WERE 5 AYES, 0 NAYS. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC HEARING: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Gun Shop & Gun Range Discussion

Fuhrman informed the Planning Commission Board that a gentleman recently inquired about opening up a retail gun shop and conference area in downtown Princeton. His goal is to eventually open a shooting range in the basement of the building as well. "Gun shop" and "shooting range" are not specifically addressed in the Zoning Ordinance currently. Technically, a gun shop could fall under a retail use within our Ordinance. However, because the specific use of a "shooting range" is not addressed, it is not allowed.

Fuhrman informed the gentleman that an Ordinance amendment would likely be required, but she was going to raise the topic with staff and the Planning Commission. The purpose of addressing it in the Zoning Ordinance would be to mitigate any potential negative effects, such as noise levels, access to the building, etc. A license from the Police Department and federal government approval is required prior to selling firearms.

Fuhrman is requesting preliminary discussion from the Planning Commission on this topic in general. No action is required at this time.

Siercks suggested that the Industrial Park would be a good location for this type of operation.

Fuhrman said there is an operation like this in another City and she contacted them and they have had no complaints of noise.

Dobson is surprised that someone renting the proposed site would want to put that type of money in the building. There is an air exchange regulation requirement.

Fuhrman said the owner of the building is looking at selling it. The gentleman who is considering opening this business in Princeton is open to other locations.

Siercks does not want this type of business in a residential area.

Mellott said the Planning Commission's concern is if this is a good location for such a business. It is not whether we like guns or not.

Dobson would rather target practice being held at an indoor shooting range instead of at a field out in the country.

Mellott said she recently found out that Minnesota has a right to carry law so the gun does not have to be concealed. It could be our rule that the guns have to be in a case going in and out of the building.

Heitschmidt said his concern is for safety, and most ranges he has been at, the person carries their gun in a case.

Siercks would like it in B-2 Zoning District, but not in B-1. There is too much residential in B-1 District.

Fuhrman said maybe only allow it in the B-2 and B-3 Zoning Districts. The building would need to be 200 feet long by 30 feet wide.

Edmonds suggested that Fuhrman look up the State minimum standards and bring them back to the next Planning Commission meeting.

Dobson suggested that Brian Payne, Princeton Police Chief come to the next Planning Commission meeting where he can give his thoughts on an Ordinance amendment.

COMMUNICATION AND REPORTS:

A. Verbal Report

1) Safe Routes To School Grant Applications

Fuhrman informed the Planning Commission Board that Princeton School District received a Planning Assistance Grant through the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program last summer to increase walking and bicycling to school for K-8 grades. Many of the students live a half mile distance or under from the schools and are driven to school by their parents. Fuhrman has been working with the School District staff along with other volunteers to determine what is needed to establish safe routes to school. With the information collected, they decided to apply for two grants, an Infrastructure Grant and Non-infrastructure Grant. The maximum grant amount is \$300,000 with no match required.

Fuhrman has submitted the application for the Infrastructure Grant. That grant is to add sidewalks on the north end of town along 5th Avenue North and 12th Street North, along with

possible intersection improvements at 7th Avenue North and 12th Street North, as well as Rum River Drive North and 12th Street North. These are the two main corridors that are utilized by students walking and biking to school on the road with the vehicles.

The School District has submitted the application for the Non-infrastructure Grant. That grant would be used to hire a coordinator through the School District Community Ed Office for education and encouragement programs for walking and biking to school.

Because Princeton is not a state aid city, MnDOT requires that the County act as the project sponsor. Mille Lacs County Board reviewed and approved a resolution of support for the SRTS applications at their meeting on February 5, 2013.

Fuhrman will update the Planning Commission Board of the results of the grants once she is informed.

2) It Starts Here Update

Fuhrman said there were a total of 14 applicants and the Business Accelerator Group has narrowed the candidates down to seven. Of those seven, credit checks are being done. Up to three applicants could be chosen to receive the loan of \$10,000.

Siercks had a few questions regarding the 2013 Council priorities list that was in the Council minutes.

Dobson answered the questions.

Fuhrman will provide the updated priorities list for the Planning Commission members.

SIERCKS MOVED, SECOND BY DOBSON, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. UPON THE VOTE, THERE WERE 5 AYES, 0 NAYS. MOTION CARRIED. THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:42 P.M.

ATTEST:

Jack Edmonds, Chairperson

Mary Lou DeWitt, Comm. Dev. Assistant