



City of Northfield

City Hall
801 Washington Street
Northfield, MN 55057
ci.northfield.mn.us

Meeting Minutes - Draft Planning Commission

Thursday, May 16, 2019

7:00 PM

Council Chambers

Rollcall

Present 6 - Joe Gasior, William Schroeer, Betsey Buckheit, Terri Jensen, Greg Siems, and Aaron Swoboda
Absent 1 - Tracy Heisler

I. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Swoboda, seconded by Vice Chair Schroeer, to approve the agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Gasior, Schroeer, Buckheit, Jensen, Siems, and Swoboda

II. Approval of Minutes

1. [19-870](#) Draft Zoning Board of Appeals & Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [1 - 04-18-2019 ZBA Meeting Minutes](#)
[2 - 04-18-2019 PC Meeting Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Schroeer, seconded by Jensen, to approve the 04-18-2019 ZBA meeting minutes as amended to change Chair Gasior's vote to a "no" vote on the second portion of ZBA Resolution #2019-002, as it pertains the the Northfield Land Development Code Section 3.7.2, to allow construction of the Maple Brook Townhomes without an eight foot wide pedestrian connection. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Gasior, Schroeer, Buckheit, Jensen, Siems, and Swoboda

A motion was made by Vice Chair Schroeer, seconded by Swoboda, to approve the 04-18-2019 PC meeting minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Gasior, Schroeer, Buckheit, Jensen, Siems, and Swoboda

III. New Business

2. [19-871](#) Discussion on changes to Dark Sky regulations

Attachments: [1 - Dark Sky Resolution Draft](#)
[2 - Dark Sky Presentation](#)

Tempel introduced Kim Smith, Environmental Quality Committee (EQC) member, to review the city's current dark skies ordinance. Smith noted the EQC has been fielding complaints on the new Excel Energy street lights from residents and from local

astronomers. Smith went through her PowerPoint presentation and felt regulating the color and temperture, covering all sources of light pollution and providing clear language / statement that applies to all developments for lighting would be good steps to improve light pollution.

Further discussion was held on:

- interior light spillover
- lighting for business safety
- being specific and strategic with lighting placement for pedestrians, businesses, etc.,
- how to incentivize or penalize lighting,
- possible programming to help businesses change out lights,
- auditing the community by a certain date and then every ten years by a designee or volunteer group,
- utilizing astronomers from the colleges and the college students,
- and understanding energy efficiency and cost.

Smith thanked the planning commission for their time and noted Councilmember Zweifel has been bringing this information to council, but the EQC has not formally presented to council.

IV. Reports and Discussion Items

Schroeer noted the transportation committee, with Councilmember Nakasian as the chair, has focused on the region, not just the City of Northfield. He noted a survey on transit has gone out to city staff.

Siems noted this is his third week as the Northfield Downtown Developent Corporation Director and they have been working on becoming a Main Street Community. Siems stated they are recruiting for subcommittees and would like the planning commission to send their goals to the NDDC.

Schroeer noted his top three goals for the planning commission are where the Land Development Code (LDC) can change to advance the strategic plans, address climate action in the LDC, and decide on the usefulness / need for a future land use plan.

Gasior asked the planning commissioners to report their top three priorities to staff, so the group could discuss them at next months meeting.

Gasior also noted the Energy Plan will come to the Planning Commission for review. He stated Council will review the plan in July.

V. Adjournment

A motion was made by Jensen, seconded by Vice Chair Schroeer, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Gasior, Schroeer, Buckheit, Jensen, Siems, and Swoboda