

City of Harris  
Planning Commission  
Regular Meeting  
May 7, 2018

**Call to Order**

Chair Rossini called to order the regular meeting of the Planning Commission at 7:08 pm.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Everyone joined in the pledge of allegiance led by Chair Rossini.

**Roll Call**

Deputy City Clerk Sculley conducted roll call. The following Planning Commission members were present: Chair Rossini, Commissioner Still, Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Peterson and Commissioner Olson. Deputy City Clerk Sculley advised that a quorum was present.

**Consent Agenda**

Commission Chair Rossini would like to make an addition to the April 2, 2018 minutes before approving them. Commission Chair Rossini will get his additions to Deputy City Clerk Sculley so they can be added to the minutes and approved at the next Planning Commission meeting on June 4, 2018.

**Regular Agenda**

• **Rezoning Question**

- The city received an email from someone who is possibly interested in purchasing 44107 Forest Blvd. The person interested in purchasing this property would like to know if there is a way to get a variance or zoning change for this property to make it possible to turn it back into a triplex. This property was previously used as a triplex, which was not a permitted or conditional use. Since the building is a non-compliant property and vacant for a year, it can no longer be put back into a non-compliant use. Commissioner Peterson makes the recommendation to council that the property remain as is with no changes to zoning or conditional uses in this district. Commissioner Olson seconded the recommendation. All in favor, recommendation carried.

• **Discuss CUP Enforcement**

- City Hall has received numerous complaints regarding the appearance of 42775 Forest Blvd. The Planning Commission specifically discussed where the people who claim to be working on this property are going to the bathroom, the amount of structures and abandoned cars on the property, and reports that someone is living in one of the trailer houses on the property. The Planning Commission is aware of other properties in Harris that may have some of the same issues. They are beginning by addressing the properties that receive the most complaints.

Planning Commission Chair Rossini makes the recommendation to council to have the Fire Chief ask the property owner about the sanitary conditions on the property, ask Chisago

County Sheriff's Office to address the abandoned vehicles on the property, ask the property owner to remove the trailer house that someone is living in, and have the property owner come in to address these complaints and concerns. Commissioner Peterson seconded the recommendation. All in favor, recommendation carried.

- **Ordinances**

- The City Hall has been working directly with Sergeant Foster from the Chisago County Sherriff's Office to address complaints and enforcement issues within the city. Sergeant Foster said that Harris is in desperate need of updating its ordinances. Sergeant Foster said that it is hard to enforce complaints with the current ordinances. He recommends that Harris spend the money to get updated ordinances in place. Deputy City Clerk Sculley will reach out to Sergeant Foster to see what ordinances specifically the city could use to address some of the current issues within the city.
- The city's attorney sent a letter to the property owner of 6525 439th Street in Harris reiterating that renting is not allowed in the General Business District.
- City Hall has received numerous complaints regarding junk cars at 45820 Grand Avenue. City Councilmember Sculley spoke with the property owner about the complaints. The owner said that he is working on removing the cars. The city will be following up to ensure the junk cars are removed.
- The Planning Commission would like to know the Fire Chief's thoughts regarding the size of the windows at 43856 Ginger Ave. If there were to be a fire, would the residents be able to get out of the building?
- The railroad tie debris that was left in Railroad Park is scheduled to be picked up soon.

- **Comprehensive Plan**

- Commission Chair Rossini still plans on meeting with Deputy City Clerk Sculley to compile all documentation and progression notes on the plan and prepare for a special meeting with the council.

- **Housekeeping Issues**

- Deputy City Clerk Sculley asked the Planning Commission to update their contact information. Deputy City Clerk Sculley reminded Planning Commission members to respond to emails in a timely matter.

## **Adjournment**

Commissioner Still motioned to adjourn and Commissioner Olson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

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Abbey Sculley Deputy City Clerk

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John Rossini Planning Commission Chair

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Date Approved