

MINUTES
REGULAR PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
September 13, 2022 - 7:00 P.M.
9180 Lexington Avenue, Lexington, MN

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Roll Call: Chairperson Bautch, Commissioners, Thorson, Koch and Murphy

Chairperson Bautch called to order the Regular Planning Commission meeting on September 13, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Commissioners Present: Michelle Koch, Gloria Murphy and Ron Thorson. Also present: Bill Petracek, City Administrator; Kurt Glaser, City Attorney

2. CITIZENS FORUM

No citizens were present to discuss items not on the agenda.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA WITH CHANGES AND CORRECTIONS

Koch made a motion to approve the agenda as typewritten. Thorson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

4. LETTERS AND COMMUNICATION

A. Building Permits for July & August 2022

Building permits for July & August 2022 were not available for discussion.

5. APPROVAL OF PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

B. July 2022

Thorson made a motion to approve the July 2022 Planning Commission Minutes as typewritten. Murphy seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

6. DISCUSSION ITEM:

A. Discuss Native/Wildflower Landscape Regulations

Bautch stated that after reading the sample ordinances provided, he feels that no matter what is recommended in the proposed ordinance, the native/wildflower landscape should not be allowed in the boulevard of residential property and there should be height restrictions placed on the natural grass that is allowed. Discussion ensued

Petracek explained that he is concerned that Lexington doesn't have the staff expertise to determine the plants allowed in a native grass/wildflower landscape to differentiate between weeds and natural landscape. He added that in the bigger communities that have the native/wildflower landscape ordinance regulations, the enforcement comes from the parks department, which usually have qualified landscapers on staff to

maintain the esthetics of the public property in a community. These individuals have the expertise of identifying the allowed plants in the ordinance. Discussion ensued.

The Planning Commission discussed incorporating language from the City of Burnsville and the City of Bloomington's ordinance into the Lexington draft ordinance:

- 1. Setback requirements of the native/wildflower landscape area*
- 2. Types of landscape/grass/flowers*
- 3. Size of the native/wildflower landscape area*
- 4. A sign requirement notifying other residence of the native/wildflower landscape area*

Petracek stated that Attorney Glaser would draft the ordinance and provide it at a future meeting date.

No action was taken.

7. NOTE COUNCIL MINUTES:

- A. July 7, 2022
- B. July 20, 2022
- C. August 4, 2022
- D. August 18, 2022

Some discussion on Council minutes

8. PLANNING COMMISSION INPUT

Thorson explained that he watched a city employee on a lawn mower, and is worried that there was not a warning sign or light on the mower. He is concerned for his safety. Discussion ensued.

Koch asked if the Planning Commission develops the THC regulations. She stated that Lino Lakes has placed a moratorium on the sale of THC products. Petracek stated that the City Council will be reviewing a draft of an ordinance regulating the sale of THC products at their next meeting. He added that P & Z might be asked by the Council to review the regulations and provide a recommendation. Discussion ensued.

Bautch asked why some dead trees in Lexington have not been taken down. Petracek stated if he could provide us the locations/addresses to the trees he would follow up with city staff. Discussion ensued.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Koch made a motion to adjourn at 8:21p.m. Thorson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.