



CITY OF West Linn

PLANNING COMMISSION

WORK SESSION

Minutes of January 16, 2013

Members present: Chair Michael Babbitt, Russell Axelrod, Robert Martin, Holly Miller and Christine Steel

Members absent: None

Staff present: John Sonnen, Planning Director*

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Babbitt called the work session to order in the Bolton Conference Room of City Hall at 6:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - GENERAL

Kevin Bryck commented on three items: People preparing to testify at a Council appeal hearing had been unable to find the files on the city website; Karie Oaks reportedly had found three errors in the notice of a Council session; and the website showed two different start times for the Commission work session.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - RELATED TO SPORT COURTS

Bruce Swanson indicated that he would be happy with the proposed amendments with some wording changes in the Overview narrative and some changes to 17.030 Standards. Under Standards he would remove the words, 'to the extent feasible' from A.2.a.; move subsections A.2.a.i and ii to Section 4; increase A.4. setbacks from property lines from 15 to 25 feet; and apply A.4.b. tennis court requirements to any sport-related court.

Mary Swanson related she had found that many jurisdictions used the proposed 50-foot separation threshold. She suggested that the requirements should be stricter about what was allowed, with the caveat that the owner could do pretty much what they wanted if they got the agreement of their neighbors. She supported removing 'to the extent feasible' from A.2.a. She explained that orientation made a difference because the noise followed the ball. For that reason the tennis court orientation standard should be applied to all courts. She suggested new section 6.c: Use of outdoor recreation areas are subject to all other City ordinances (which would include the noise ordinance that prohibited unnecessary noise at all hours of the day). She supported the McGill's and the Commissioners' efforts and hoped it would not be undone at Council level. She advised there were ways to test potential court orientation before the neighbor agreed to it.

Mindy McGill observed the proposed amendments dealt with proposed new courts. She wanted existing sport courts addressed. She advocated setting a 7 p.m. limit on using and lighting them. She suggested the Commission just step up and do the right thing regardless of the Council.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action on the Minutes of December 5, 2012 was postponed to allow the staff time to incorporate changes by Commissioners Steel and Axelrod.

DISCUSSION REGARDING POTENTIAL AMENDMENTS TO THE CDC RELATED TO SPORTS COURTS

The Commissioners worked on the proposed sport courts amendments on pages 1-5 of the Proposed Amendments of the Community Development Code/Discussion Draft dated December 11, 2012. Commissioner Steel volunteered to serve as scribe; make the changes in the document; and distribute it. *Mr. Sonnen was not present during most of this discussion.

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION

Mr. Sonnen returned to the meeting. He announced the Commissioners would be offered a higher grade of electric tablet to test. He announced the newly appointed Commissioners were Nancy King and Lorie Griffith. He discussed the future agenda. In response to a question, he clarified that staff had not recommended approval of the water treatment plant after the Planning Commission voted to deny. He advised the Commissioners to avoid *ex parte* contacts related to the water treatment plant appeal.

The Commissioners discussed hearing procedure. Chair Babbitt would make sure to offer time to any Commissioner who wanted to explain how his/her position differed from the others' after polling and before the motion. Mr. Sonnen advised regarding public meeting requirements. The Commissioners planned to elect a vice chair at the next meeting on February 6.

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM CCI

None.

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM STAFF

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, Chair Babbitt adjourned the Planning Commission meeting at approximately 9:30 p.m.

APPROVED:

Christie M. Steel
~~Michael Babbitt, Chair~~
Vice Chair

3-6-13
Date