

OXFORD PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes – February 13, 2018

MEMBERS: Jonathan Eady, Chair; Aaron Robinson, Secretary; Mike Besaw, Laura McCanless, and Zach May. Juanita Carson was absent.

STAFF: Matthew Pepper, assistant city manager and zoning administrator.

GUESTS: Hubert White; Joey Brewer, Acre Professional Surveyors; Kendra Mayfield, Oxford College.

OPENING: At 7:00 PM, Mr. Eady called the meeting to order, welcomed the guests, and introduced Mike Besaw, Zach May, and Laura McCanless as the newest Commission members.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Besaw, seconded by Ms. McCanless, the minutes for the meeting of December 13 were adopted as amended. The vote was 5-0.

ELECTIONS: This is the first meeting in 2018 so it is time to elect officers for the next year. The officers are: Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. Upon motion of Ms. McCanless, seconded by Mr. Robinson, Mr. Eady was nominated for Chair. Upon motion of Mr. Besaw, seconded by Mr. Eady, Mr. Robinson was nominated for Vice-Chair. After a discussion of the duties, upon motion of Mr. May, seconded by Mr. Besaw, Ms. McCanless was nominated for Secretary.

Mr. Eady called for a vote on the entire slate of officers. The vote was 5-0 to approve Mr. Eady as chair, Mr. Robinson as vice-chair, and Ms. McCanless as Secretary.

MINOR SUBDIVISION – HUBERT WHITE AND JOYCE SULLIVAN: Mr. White and Ms. Sullivan submitted a request for the review and approval of a plat for a minor subdivision. They wish to subdivide the lot at the corner of Asbury Street and W. Watson Street. They submitted a plat of the subdivision prepared by Joey Brewer, surveyor. The Planning Commission members had a discussion on whether or not the square footage of Lot 1 should be increased to meet the standard minimum lot size. Given that the proposed subdivided lots are within the infill overlay, the Commission members thought Sec. 40-492 (Lot size averaging) would be applicable. Sec. 40-492 includes a provision that the lot cannot be reduced to less than 80% of the required minimum lot size, which in this case would be 24,000 square feet.

Upon motion of Mr. Besaw, seconded by Mr. Robinson, the minor subdivision was recommended for approval to City Council as submitted. The vote was 5-0.

PHI GAMMA HALL RENOVATION: Kendra Mayfield detailed to the Planning Commission members the college's plans to renovate Phi Gamma Hall. The renovation plans include making the building handicap accessible, constructing bathrooms in the basement, and renovating the building's interior.

Upon motion of Ms. McCanless, seconded by Mr. Besaw, the Planning Commission approved the development permit for the Phi Gamma Hall renovation, conditional upon receiving the official design plans from Ms. Mayfield. The vote was 4 in favor, with Mr. Eady abstaining.

PIERCE STREET RE-DESIGN PROJECT UPDATE: Kendra Mayfield shared with the Planning Commission the engineering drawings for the redesign of Pierce Street as approved by City Council on February 5th, 2018.

REVIEW OF OXFORD COLLEGE HOOP HOUSE DEVELOPMENT PERMIT – The Planning Commission members reviewed the development permit and minutes from the meeting wherein the first hoop house was approved in its current location. The Commission members determined that the first hoop house is compliant, and therefore would not affect the Planning Commission’s decision to approve the second hoop house at the December 2017 meeting.

REVIEW OF CODE SECTION 40-536. – LIVESTOCK AND FOWL – The Planning Commission members discussed the code section regarding the keeping of livestock and fowl in residential zoning districts. The Commission members decided to recommend to City Council that the current ordinance be more permissive by allowing laying hens in all residential zoning districts, and reducing the setback limits. The Commission members also decided to include a specific provision to ban roosters, and another provision to limit the number of laying hens allowed on a property to six. Mr. Eady and Mr. Pepper will work on the specific language of the ordinance to present to City Council.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Eady adjourned the meeting at 8:50 PM.

Approved by:

Laura McCanless, Secretary