

GLADSTONE PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES of September 17, 2019

Meeting was called to order at approximately 6:41 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

Chair Randy Rowlette, Commissioner Natalie Smith, Commissioner Patrick Smith

ABSENT:

Commissioner Andriel Langston, Commissioner Malachi de AElfweald, Commissioner Les Poole

STAFF:

Tami Bannick, City Recorder; Melissa Ahrens, Senior Planner; Joy Fields, Senior Planner; Councilor Mersereau

Chair Rowlette said they did not have a quorum. The next scheduled meeting should be October 15th, 2019. The Public Hearing will have to be re-noticed. Commissioner Natalie Smith pointed out that the people involved in the public hearing are not present. She asked if there was anything they could do to ensure their attendance at the next meeting. Chair Rowlette said they don't have to be present – it's their choice. (They did arrive approximately 8 minutes later)

INFORMATION:

Ms. Bannick said she did some follow up regarding Tri-Met/Glen Echo and the City boundary. That is actually maintained by Clackamas County. Mr. Whynot, Public Works Director, indicated that there are no plans for any enhancements, slurry seal potholes, sidewalks, etc. so for Tri-Met that would not be a feasible route as was discussed. Ms. Bannick has not heard any more from Tri-Met. Chair Rowlette said this is something they could discuss in the future.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **Approval of August 20, 2019 Meeting Minutes**
This was not voted on because of the lack of a quorum.

REGULAR AGENDA:

2. **Public Hearing: File Z0044-19-D – Design Review for landscaping that has been changed and modified from the previously approved landscaping associated with permit Z0048-17-D. Implementation of the proposed landscaping plan aims to address a land use violation and meet the requirements of the Gladstone Municipal Code. Carz Planet, 19120 McLoughlin Boulevard. Well Done Construction – applicant:**
This was not addressed because of the lack of a quorum.

BUSINESS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

None.

BUSINESS FROM THE COMMISSION:

Commissioner Patrick Smith:

He said that Commissioner Poole asked a question at the City Council meeting about business from the audience and how it has been moved to the end of their meetings – he felt it was putting a lid on community input. Commissioner Smith said he has the same feeling with the Planning Commission meetings. He said

if someone comes to one of the meeting and wants to talk about something they are forced to sit through the meeting before they get their say. He is wondering if they can switch it back. Chair Rowlette said he thinks they can switch it. He would like to see it after the consent agenda and approval of the minutes, before they go to the regular agenda, and that they call it business from the “public”, not business from the “audience”. He would also like to give people the opportunity to make comments in regard to public hearings, before business from the Planning Commission. The other Commissioners agreed.

Chair Rowlette:

He said he wanted to discuss the issue of cutting trees down in the City. The biggest issue he has is that anybody can cut down any tree for any reason. He gave an example of a tri-plex recently where they cut down a beautiful oak tree. He said people are cutting down live oaks because they don’t want the debris that falls off the trees. He feels we need to look at some of those trees that are coming down for no good reason. He said there’s a website called garden.org – you can search for nickynick (his brother) to learn more about it. He would like to talk about the possibility of a tree ordinance. The other Commissioners agreed.

Ms. Ahrens said sometimes there’s a sustainability component to it in terms of reducing cities’ heat island effect and the heat levels on properties in the summer, etc., as well as air quality.

Commissioner Patrick Smith:

He said he had a conversation with the Chief of Police recently regarding zombie houses. The Chief and Officer Boyle mentioned one in particular on Manor Drive. He said it is unbelievably bad and it would seem to him at some point that the City has some responsibility to get rid of those houses. He is wondering if this is something the Planning Commission should discuss at some point. Chair Rowlette and Ms. Bannick said that the City has put liens on that property and they are working on nuisance abatement. The house has been vacant for approximately 40 years and is currently in foreclosure. There was discussion regarding a house in Clackamas County near Courtney/River Road that was condemned/torn down. Commissioner Patrick Smith said there are other houses in town that have been vacant for over a year – he said other cities have remedies for these situations and he is wondering why Gladstone may not have those remedies. Ms. Bannick said if there are concerns she would follow up with Code Enforcement so they are aware of the situation and it is documented. Commissioner Natalie Smith pointed out that some of these houses might be appropriate for Habitat for Humanity to refurbish. There was further discussion regarding other abandoned houses.

ADJOURN:

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:05 P.M.

Minutes approved by the Planning Commission this 15 day of OCT, 2019.


Randy Rowlette, Chair