

City of Norton
PLANNING COMMISSION
Tuesday, April 22, 2008

The Planning Commission (PC) of the City of Norton, Ohio, convened for a public meeting in Council Chambers of the Safety Administration Building. Chairman Mark Spisak called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

I. ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Mark Spisak, Janet Jacobs, John Conklin, Ralph Dowling,

ABSENT: Todd Houser

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Pritchard, Director of Planning and Community Development
Pat Ryan, Zoning Inspector

II. PUBLIC APPLICATIONS:

None

III. OLD BUSINESS:

Chairman Spisak asked for an update on the Planning Commission's road trip for Friday, May 2, 2008. Mr. Jeff Pritchard, Director of Planning and Community Development, stated the trip was confirmed. He said that he and Pat Ryan, Zoning Inspector, would take a dry run of the trip to help the group focus on significant areas. He also stated they would check the general timing of the trip and route. Mr. Pritchard stated there was a possibility Mr. Rick Ryland, City Administrator, would be attending the road trip. He stated other attendees could include John Moss, Finance Director, and Mayor David Koontz.

Mr. John Conklin asked if the Board's road trip pictures could be incorporated into documents submitted to Council vs. trying to communicate with them verbally. Chairman Spisak stated he could make the presentation if the Board desired. Mr. Pritchard stated a presentation with pictures would be a good idea. He stated pictures could better relay what types of zoning and structures the Board was looking to incorporate. He also stated these pictures would show that these areas are successful, growing and have maintained their growth without diminishing anything coming into their community. Mr. Conklin suggested a Power Point presentation to Council. There was general discussion on a presentation and the equipment available to the City. Mr. Conklin stated this type of presentation would help Council visualize any before and after future zoning issues. Mr. Conklin stated the Lake Dorothy Project could also require a Power Point presentation to Council.

Mr. Conklin asked if the Board would be submitting dimensions to Council to act on before their summer break. Mr. Pritchard stated Pittsburg Plate and Glass (PPG), Parkland Zoning and the Norton Central Core District were nice lead-up zoning issues that this Board could address. Mr. Pritchard stated residential areas would be handled separately since they would be the easiest to present to Council. He stated business and industrial areas would be tougher, since they can be so diverse. He said business and industrial areas could be presented after Council's summer break. He further stated landscaping was a statement and a direct reflection of the community.

Ms. Ryan added that proper landscaping is used to help absorb water. She stated with additional trees and shrubs, more water is absorbed. Mr. Pritchard stated proper landscaping does help meet storm water requirements. He stated we do need to pay attention to these projects and adhere to rules. He stated these projects would be with the City for many years and the community will also have to live with them for many years. Chairman Spisak stated proper landscaping does make a business look softer. Ms. Ryan stated the Board would need to be prepared for various conflicts on landscaping. She gave an example of car dealerships fighting against planting trees because a tree could potentially block or hide a car on their sale lot. She suggested an alternative for these conflicts could be planting a lower shrub or a cluster of trees on the site.

Chairman Spisak asked if there was any other old business; there was none.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Conklin mentioned an individual next to one of his relatives installed a septic system. He stated this system had a visible red light mounted on the side of a large box. He asked if Mr. Pritchard knew what kind of system this could be. Mr. Pritchard stated he thought it could be an off-lot discharge system with chlorination. He said these units are used when there is no area available for replacement. He said this could be their only alternative if City sanitary sewer access is not available. He stated there are inspection fees involved and a required permit with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Chairman Spisak asked if there was any new business; there was none.

V. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The Minutes from the Wednesday, January 23, 2008 will be considered at the next meeting. These minutes have not yet been accepted because a majority of members attending these meetings have been unavailable.

The minutes were considered from the Tuesday, March 25, 2008 meeting. **Mr. Conklin moved to accept the minutes as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Ralph Dowling. ROLL CALL: Mr. Conklin-Yes, Mr. Dowling-Yes, Chairman Spisak-Yes, Ms. Janet Jacobs-Abstain. Motion passed 3-0-1 to approve the minutes as submitted. The minutes were processed accordingly.**

The minutes were considered from the Tuesday, April 8, 2008 meeting. **Chairman Spisak moved to accept the minutes as submitted. Seconded by Ms. Jacobs. ROLL CALL: Mr. Spisak-Yes, Ms. Jacobs-Yes, Mr. Dowling-Yes, Mr. Conklin-Abstain. Motion passed 3-0-1 to approve the minutes as submitted. The minutes were processed accordingly.**

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Spisak announced that the next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. With no further business coming before the Commission, Chairman Spisak adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.



Planning Commission Chair/Vice-Chair



Planning Commission Vice-Chair/Member

5/13/08
Date

