

City of Norton
PLANNING COMMISSION
Tuesday, April 8, 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, Ralph Dowling**

ABSENT: **Todd Houser, John Conklin**

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

II. PUBLIC APPLICATIONS:

None

III. OLD BUSINESS:

Pat Ryan, Zoning Inspector, stated last week she passed out a CD with various zoning codes. She stated Ms. Jacobs was absent last week and just received her Zoning Code CD today, so discussions may be limited until Ms. Jacobs has time to review the Zoning Code CD. She asked Ms. Jacobs and the Board to review the Zoning Code CD and contact her if they had any questions.

Ms. Ryan stated she was still waiting on the Twinsburg and Broadview Heights architectural standards. Chairman Spisak asked if any of these areas were practicing environmentally green procedures. Ms. Ryan stated only some of these areas were practicing environmentally green procedures. Mr. Dowling asked if these environmentally green areas had tight restrictions. Jeff Pritchard, Director of Planning and Community Development, stated the restrictions on these areas were very limited.

Ms. Ryan stated regarding architectural review boards, some jurisdictions have a separate board for this review that usually consists of architects or persons with an architectural background. However, because of possible difficulties with finding a number of available residents to fill the positions that possess this background, some areas will contract with professionals with this area of expertise to do a review. Normally, there is a general clause in the Zoning Board's rules or in the zoning code that allows the Board to call upon a consultant when they see the need; the cost of this is borne by the applicant. This could allow to consultant reviews for landscaping, architecture, engineering, traffic, etc.

Mr. Dowling stated he had trouble opening Ms. Ryan's Zoning Code CD due to a pop-up blocker on his computer. He asked Ms. Ryan if she could send the CD in a different document format or if the information could be printed for him. Ms. Ryan stated she would print a copy the Zoning Code CD and mail it to him if she could not reformat the text into a word document.

Mr. Dowling asked Mr. Pritchard how the Northstar project was progressing. Mr. Pritchard stated he met with Mr. Majewski of Northstar Planning & Design and discussed information on the parks and the development of the Norton Core District area. He stated Northstar Planning & Design would be working on the park project first, then the Norton Core

District area. He said the Norton Core District area would include the approximate area from Interstate I-76 to south of Greenwich Road, west to Croydon and east on Norton Avenue to the Brunswick Bowling Alley. Mr. Pritchard stated the water line project should be complete within five years or close to the year 2013. He stated once the Norton Core District area was squared away, the area would look completely different within ten years.

Mr. Dowling asked if the Planning Commission's road trip on Friday, May 2nd was still scheduled. Mr. Pritchard stated it was still scheduled and has been confirmed. He asked Pam Campbell, Boards and Commission Secretary, to check if the bus would pick up the Planning Commission group at City Hall or if everyone should meet near the Norton City School's bus garage area.

Chairman Spisak asked for an update on the Cleveland-Massillon Road Widening Project. Mr. Pritchard stated the project was still on schedule for August or early September. He stated they were in the process of selecting a consultant for the project. He said at his last Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study, (AMATS), Cleveland-Massillon Road scored third and fourth on the AMATS list. He stated the AMATS rating is based on volume. He said the City would apply for funds thru the Highway Safety Program (HSP), whose focus is on safety. He stated a traffic study would be done and Cleveland-Massillon Road could increase up to five lanes, which could include a center turn lane. He stated this five-lane increase would be a maximum.

Mr. Pritchard stated the water line project would be completed this year, possibly by early fall. Mr. Dowling asked if this water line would go up Cleveland-Massillon Road. Mr. Pritchard stated the water lines would run from Strickland's Ice Cream to the creek at the Norton Middle School. Mr. Dowling asked how the City would cross the road with these water lines. Mr. Pritchard stated the City would have to bore under the road. Ms. Jacobs asked if the City would be connecting the water line from Mt. Vernon Estates to Greenridge Road. Mr. Pritchard said the water line would be connected to that area. He stated the project could also include the area behind Brentwood Estates. Ms. Jacobs asked when this project would take place. Mr. Pritchard stated possibly this fall. He stated other water line projects this year would include Berry, McGowan, Phase III of Gardner Boulevard, Cleveland-Massillon Road and Wadsworth Road. Mr. Dowling asked if Phase III of Gardner Boulevard would include an improved water line. Mr. Pritchard stated it would. Mr. Dowling asked if the Gardner Boulevard residents were sent out a letter on this project. Mr. Pritchard stated it was still too soon for a letter to be sent out. He said the issue would still need to be brought before Council.

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

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

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

V. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:


The Minutes from the Wednesday, January 25, 2008 and the Tuesday, March 25, 2008 meetings will be considered at the next meeting. These minutes have not yet been accepted because a majority of members attending these meetings have not been unavailable.

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Spisak announced that the next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, April 22, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. With no further business coming before the Commission, Chairman Spisak adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.



Planning Commission Chair/Vice-Chair



Planning Commission Vice-Chair/Member

4/22/08
Date

