



PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES Richfield, Minnesota

Regular Planning Commission Meeting

May 22, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Holmwig-Johnson at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Planning Commission Members Present: Brendan Kennealy, Benjamin Surma, Matt Taraldsen, Brett Stursa, James Rudolph, and Eddie Holmwig-Johnson

Planning Commissioners Excused: Cole Hooey

Staff Present: Sam Crosby, Planner II; and Nellie Jerome, Planner I;

Others Present: Ismail Ahmad, Masehullah Sahil, and Babatunde Shonoiki

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/Stursa, S/Rudolph to approve the minutes of the Regular Planning Commission meeting of March 27, 2023 and the Planning Commission work session of April 24, 2023.

Motion carried: 6-0.

OPEN FORUM

Chair Holmwig-Johnson reviewed the options to participate in the open forum. There were no callers or speakers.

ITEM #1	APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
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M/Stursa, S/Taraldsen to approve the agenda.

Motion carried: 6-0.

ITEM #2	REVIEW OF PLANNING COMMISSION BYLAWS.
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Planner Crosby presented Staff Report No. 8.

M/Stursa, S/ Kennealy to approve the bylaws as amended.

Motion carried: 6-0.

ITEM #3	CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST FOR SITE PLAN APPROVAL AND A TWO STALL PARKING VARIANCE FOR AFGHAN HALAL SUPERMARKET AT 6626 PENN AVENUE SOUTH
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Planner Crosby presented Staff Report No. 9.

After a couple questions of staff, Chair Holmwig-Johnson opened the public hearing.

The applicant, Masehullah Sahil, addressed the Commission. Next, a community member, Ismail Ahmad, spoke in favor of the request.

M/Stursa, S/Taralsden, to close the public hearing.

Motion carried: 6-0.

M/Stursa, S/Kennealy to recommend approval of the request as presented by staff.

Motion carried: 6-0.

ITEM #4	LIAISON REPORTS
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- Community Services Commission: Rudolph had no report.
- City Council: Commissioner Kennealy reported that the Council held a work session on establishing additional renter protections and removing or changing parking minimums. Another work session discussed possible changes to local speed limits. At their regular meeting, the Council approved resolutions to accept support from state and federal agencies for local infrastructure planning and construction.
- Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA): Stursa reported that the HRA has an opening and encouraged those who might be interested to apply. The Authority also had a conversation at their March meeting with someone who is interested in a Deli/Bakery/Café concept on the vacant lot next to Frenchman’s Pub.
- Richfield School Board: Holmwig-Johnson had no report.
- Transportation Commission: Surma reported on various project updates and the safe-routes-to-schools pilot project.
- Chamber of Commerce: Hooey was absent.
- Sustainability Commission: Taralsden reported that the first ECO Fair, the pilot tree program, and the community garden plot program were all very popular and they are currently working on the digital sustainability guide expected to be complete next month.

ITEM #6	CITY PLANNER’S REPORT
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Planner Jerome announced that she'll be leaving the City for a long range planning position with the City of St. Paul. Planner Crosby repeated the HRA/EDA opening announcement, and pointed out that the Council approved a one-year time extension for Richfield Flats, the 4-story, 55-unit apartment building by developer MWF, at 7700 Pillsbury Avenue South. Finally, the June Planning Commission is likely to be canceled due to a lack of applicants.

ITEM #7	NEXT MEETING TIME AND LOCATION
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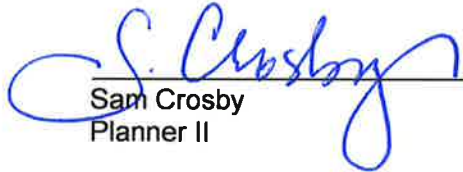
June 26, 2023, or, if canceled, then July 24, 2023.

ITEM #6	ADJOURNMENT
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M/Rudolph, S/Surma to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried: 6-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Submitted by:



 Sam Crosby
 Planner II


 Vice Chair

~~Brett Stursa~~
~~Planning Commission Secretary~~