

Minutes

Falcon Heights Planning Commission

March 27, 2001

The meeting was called to order by the city administrator at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Worthington informed the commission that the first order of business should be the nomination of a chair. A nomination from the floor was made for Melissa Maher, and the commission voted unanimously to approve her nomination.

Ms. Maher then began with the agenda items. The first agenda item was a variance request by Gibbs Farm for a one-foot variance for the construction of a privacy fence. Ted Lau, site manager for Gibbs Farm, and Chris Korbel, University of Minnesota Lee Bolstad Golf Course, were present. Mr. Lau reported that the Ramsey County Historical Society had developed the fence from drawings found of a fence at the Fon du Lac Trading Post, and that the seven foot height was a compromise between historical accuracy and safety concerns for their visitors. Mr. Korbel had no exceptions to the plan, and felt that as long as the fence followed the property line along the practice tee, no objections would be made to the fence from the U of M. Mr. Korbel also informed the commission that he felt the height was adequate to prevent golf balls from entering the Gibbs Farm site.

Commissioner Lageson made a motion to recommend approval of the variance to the City Council, seconded by DeLeo. The motion carried unanimously.

On the issue of the TIF modifications, Ms. Worthington presented a staff report, and answered questions related to Tax Increment Financing, and the specifics of the modifications. She clarified for the council that the changes being proposed to the TIF districts were mainly bookkeeping measures recommended by the State Auditor as part of the yearly review of TIF plans by that state office.

Commissioner Tracy made a motion to adopt Resolution 01-06, and recommend to the City Council approval of the TIF Modifications, finding that they are in compliance with the Comprehensive Plan; seconded by Heideman. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Worthington inquired of the commissioners whether or not they would like to go forward with some long-range planning for the commercial areas of the city. The commission responded favorably, and identified the following areas for further study, research and historical perspective at the next several commission meetings:

Northome neighborhood: History, issues, potential

Zoning: Other municipal models, presentation by city planners

School Planning: 2000 Census, enrollment figures

Bus/Transportation: Shelters, pedestrian amenities, presentation by Met Transit

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Heather M. Worthington, City Administrator