

MINUTES
BLOOMINGTON PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING,
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2013, 4:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL
109 E. OLIVE ST., BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. J Balmer, Chairperson Stan Cain, Mr. Rex Diamond, Mr. Jim Pearson, Mr. Ryan Scritchlow, Mr. Bill Schulz, Mr. Robert Wills, Mr. Charles Stuckey (arrived 4:04), Mr. David Stanczak (arrived 4:10)

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Kevin Kothe, City Engineer
Mr. Mark Woolard, City Planner

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Cain called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Woolard called the roll. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MINUTES: The Commission reviewed the August 14, 2013 minutes. On page 1 in the last paragraph “did” is to be “do” after “residents who”. Mr. Balmer moved to approve the August 14, 2013 minutes as amended. Mr. Schulz seconded the motion which passed by a vote of 7 to 0 with the following votes being cast on roll call: Mr. Cain--yes; Mr. Wills--yes; Mr. Pearson--yes; Mr. Balmer--yes; Mr. Schulz--yes; Mr. Scritchlow--yes; Mr. Diamond--yes; Mr. Stanczak--absent; Mr. Stuckey--absent.

REGULAR AGENDA:

V-03-13. Public hearing and review on the petition filed by Illinois Wesleyan University, requesting approval of the vacation of Titan Drive west of Fell Avenue and the adjacent north/south alley right of way lying north of the easterly extension of the centerline of the vacated East-West alley in Block 6 in the Phoenix Addition.

Chairperson Cain introduced the petition. Mr. Woolard explained the vacation of both the partial alley and the public street. Staff sights positives for the city as well as the University and recommends approval.

Chairperson Cain opened the public hearing. Mr. Todd Bugg, with Dunn Law Firm at 1001 N. Main Street, stated IWU is asking for a vacation for the remainder of Titan Drive and the alley that extends south. All surrounding property is owned by IWU. Mr. Bugg affirmed this vacation is a win/win for the city and university. There are no plans to close the important entry way onto Fell Street. He explained after the vacation, Titan Drive will not be an official street however IWU could keep the Titan Drive name. Mr. Bugg stated that since one side of the remaining alley is adjacent to privately owned property, IWU is only asking for a vacation for the part of the alley that is adjacent to IWU land. The reason is to not cause the private owner complications if they chose to sell the property in the future.

Mr. Carl Teichman, PO Box 2900, Bloomington, IL, stated the request for the vacated area stems from its current use by the university and in anticipated parking needs for the university. There has been an incremental acquisition of property in the area over the past several years. This request includes one of two entrance/exits to the Shirk Center Complex Parking Lot. Also, IWU has no current plan to change the property in the short run

which is in the next 3-5 years. Mr. Teichman assured the commission that there was no current plan to close the Fell Avenue entry. In fact Mr. Teichman agreed with the city that the University would need a second entrance for traffic flow and the possibility of emergency entrance to the facility. Kevin Kothe confirmed that we have letters from all utilities and an easement for such would remain. Mr. Teichman asked for approval of the petition.

Chairperson Cain asked if there were any members of the audience who wished to speak in opposition, in favor or if they had questions pertaining to the petition and no one spoke. Chairperson Cain then closed the public hearing.

Mr. Stuckey stated traffic flow concerns for both city and university were addressed. Mr. Stuckey moved with respect to case V-03-13 that we recommend city council approve it. Mr. Pearson seconded the motion which passed by a vote of 9-0 with the following votes being cast on roll call: Mr. Cain--yes; Mr. Wills--yes; Mr. Pearson--yes; Mr. Balmer--yes; Mr. Schulz--yes; Mr. Scritchlow--yes; Mr. Diamond--yes; Mr. Stuckey--yes; Mr. Stanczak--yes

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Woolard introduced the education agenda item – Transportation Planning. Mr. Kevin Kothe provided an update on the Washington Street makeover and how it will be presented to the council. He discussed a possible on-road biking route, bike venues, travel areas and corridors of availability. Mr. Kothe also explained the importance of safety measures in place for vehicles and then introducing bike lanes. Various streets were used as examples of possible changes, models and/or improvements. He also explained the need for access management and how a 2004 study is used as a reference guide to infrastructure planning and to improve safety. The Commission briefly discussed how the standards should be put into an ordinance and not merely used as a guide.

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come to the Bloomington Planning Commission's attention, Mr. Balmer moved to adjourn and Mr. Diamond seconded the motion which was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5.02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Woolard
City Planner

For further information contact:

Mr. Mark Woolard, City Planner
Government Center, 2nd Floor
115 East Washington Street
Bloomington, IL 61701
Phone: (309) 434-2341 FAX (309) 434-2857