

**CITY OF EAST PROVIDENCE
PLANNING BOARD
MINUTES**

Date: August 31st, 2020

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: City Hall, Room 306

As a result of Covid-19 and the closure of City Hall, this meeting was conducted virtually through an application called “Zoom”.

Present: Eric Crook, Alan D’Aiello, Christopher Grant, Burton Batty (Vice-Chair), Octavio Cunha, Michael Robinson (Chair), Michelle Rockwell, Michael Marcello (City Solicitor), William Fazioli (Planning Director), Patrick Hanner (Staff), Johanna Walczak (Staff) and Erik Skadberg (City Engineer)

This is an open meeting of the East Providence Planning Board and is being conducted remotely consistent with Governor Raimondo’s executive order 20-25 issued on April 15, 2020 and extended by executive order 20-46 on June 12, 2020 due to the current state of emergency in R.I. due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 virus. In order to mitigate the transmission of the Covid-19 virus, we have been advised and directed by the state to suspend public gatherings and as such the Governor’s order suspends the requirements of the open meeting law to have all meetings in a publicly physical location. Further all members of public bodies are allowed and encouraged to participate remotely. The order allows public bodies to meet entirely remotely so long as adequate means of public access are afforded so the public can follow along.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of Allegiance was cited.

3. APPROVAL OF PLANING BOARD MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Grant, seconded by Mr. D’Aiello, on a roll call vote, the board voted 7-0 to approve the minutes of May 11, 2020 and June 8, 2020

4. APPROVAL OF PLANNING BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

None

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Major Subdivision, Application #2019-11-Major, Master and Preliminary Plan Submission, Applicant: Phillip Tirrell, Owner: Phillip Tirrell and Cary L. White, Map 305, block 8, parcel 20, Street Address: Lynn Avenue and Vineland Avenue.

Mr. Hanner provided details on the proposed plan. He also explained the difference between a minor and major subdivision. It is the opinion of the planning staff that this subdivision is consistent with the city's comprehensive plan. On pages 4, 5 and 6 of the staff's memo, positive findings were made for the required findings of section 1.2 as well as section 5.4 of subdivision regulations. A number of items are recommended to be adopted into tonight's record. Requesting planning board delegate the final plan approval to the administrative officer. Would like the board to vote on waivers requested by the applicant. The planning department staff is recommending the board grant conditional approval subject to the 9 conditions listed by Mr. Hanner.

Phillip Tirrell represented himself as the applicant. Mr. Tirrell provided details of the proposed plan being submitted. He also provided details of the current housing market and the importance of new construction.

Mr. Robinson asked Mr. Marcello to speak on the legality of the November 2019 zoning board decision. Mr. Marcello explained the procedural aspects of the decision.

Patricia and John Colageo of 92 Miles Ave were sworn in. They are asking how far the properties will be set back from the street. Mr. Hanner provided the appropriate details. The Colageo's are concerned with privacy and the properties being too close to theirs. They are also concerned with flooding in the area. Mr. Batty provided feedback on the privacy concerns.

Mr. Grant would like to hear from Erik Skadberg about the water table issues. Mr. Skadberg presented his findings and provided details of the new construction being proposed.

Mr. Grant feels the applicant has gone above and beyond and is ready to approve the submitted plan. Mr. Robinson agrees with Mr. Grant.

Mr. Crook has recused himself from this issue.

On a motion by Mr. Grant, seconded by Mr. Cunha, on a roll call vote 6-0, the board voted to accept the staff memorandum and all supporting documents.

On a motion by Mr. Grant, seconded by Mr. D'Aiello, on a roll call vote 6-0, the board voted to grant the requested waivers in regards to concrete sidewalks on front of all 3 parcels on Lynn and Vineland Ave and the request for waiver of requirement to install granite curbing along frontage of Vineland Ave.

On a motion by Mr. Grant, seconded by Mr. D'Aiello, on a roll call vote 6-0, the board voted to grant the conditional approval of this subdivision as proposed subject to the restrictions recommended by the planning department.

On a motion by Mr. Grant, seconded by Mr. Cunha, on a roll call vote 6-0, the board to approve the delegation of the final plan approval to the administrative officer.

B. Recommendation to the City Council for the FY 2021 Capital Budget and FY 2021-2025 Capital Improvement Program.

Mr. Fazioli gave a brief overview of the Capital Budget and projects involved. Ms. Walczak provided further information about the budget, going into great detail about the charts and information provided. She also explained how the figures were compiled and who was involved in the process. Ms. Walczak also went over the status report of prior approved projects.

Mr. Batty is questioning the Public Works/Highway budget on traffic calming measures. The Mayor explained the funding was proposed for sidewalks, to improve safety throughout the city and to make sure the money is available if need be. Mr. Batty also questioned the park upgrades. The Mayor provided details on these upgrades and where the money could be used.

Mr. D'Aiello is recusing himself from this matter as he has a connection to Grassy Plains.

Mr. Grant would like to hear more information on the budget for the Carousel. The Mayor spoke of the needed repairs/upgrades for the Carousel and explained it will cost more than originally anticipated.

Mr. Crook would like information on the overall process to develop the Capital Budget. The Mayor fully explained the process.

Joe V. of 31 Argyle Ave is questioning why Grassy Plains is not mentioned in the 5 year plan. Mr. Fazioli gave details in regards to Grassy Plains. The Mayor provided additional information of grants and match money for the improvements at Grassy Plains. The City Council will need to approve.

On a motion by Mr. Grant, seconded by Mr. Crook, on a roll call vote 6-0, the board voted to accept the planning board advisory memorandum and enclosures into record.

On a motion by Mr. Grant, seconded by Mr. Cunha, on a roll call vote 6-0, the board voted to accept a favorable advisory recommendation to the City Council to approve the Fiscal Year 2021 Capital Budget and the FY 2021-2025 Capital Improvement Program, and to provide advisory recommendation to the council to approve the remaining fiscal year 2020 Capital budget request.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

None

7. STAFF REPORT

Mr. Fazioli gave a brief staff report on upcoming projects.

8. COMMUNICATION

None

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next planning board meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2020

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 PM