

DRAFT FAIRFAX PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
SPECIAL HYBRID MEETING/VIA TELECONFERENCE ONLY
THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2022

Call to Order/Roll Call:

Chair Fragoso called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Norma Fragoso (Chair)
Philip Green
Robert Jansen
Brett Kelly
Mimi Newton

Commissioners Absent: Cindy Swift

Staff Present: Heather Abrams, Town Manager
Janet Coleson, Town Attorney
Linda Neal, Principal Planner

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

M/s, Green/Jansen, motion to approve the agenda as submitted.

AYES: Green, Jansen, Kelly, Newton, Chair Fragoso

ABSENT: Swift

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no comments.

PUBLIC HEARING ITEM

- 1. Outdoor Dining Enclosure Encroachments Ordinance: Consideration and possible recommendation to the Town Council for adoption of an Ordinance allowing ministerial issuance of Revocable Encroachment Permits to allow outdoor dining in public spaces in the CH Highway Commercial and CC Central Commercial Zones. The Ordinance proposes minor amendments to Town Code Title 12, Chapter 12.32 ('Temporary Carports and Other Structures in the Public Right-of-Way'), Title 17, Chapter 17.096 ('CH Highway Commercial Zone'), Section 17.096.040 ('Principal Permitted Uses and Structures') and Chapter 17.100 ('CC Central Commercial Zone'), Section 17.100.040 ('Principal Permitted Uses and Structures'), to Allow Outdoor Dining Enclosures as Permitted Uses for Commercially Developed Properties in the CH and CC Zone Districts. Ordinance is exempt from CEQA, Sections (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15060(c)(2), 15601(b)(3), and 15305.**

Principal Planner Neal presented the staff report. She noted the following change; On page 2, the second paragraph, the last sentence shall read: "Upon filing of the application the same shall be processed ministerially by the Public Works Director or the Building Official and issued as long as the outdoor dining enclosure complies with the commercial outdoor dining specifications contained in Town Code, Title 5".

Town Attorney Coleson stated the Council will be reviewing the Ordinance and the Resolution and the Commission is reviewing the code changes to the CH and CC Zones and the encroachment. Staff answered questions about any changes in the specifications; comments from utility companies; short-term vs. long-term issues; design standards with respect to safety; other building or commercial spaces that are not under the purview of the Commission or do not require Design Review; applicability of Chapter 12.32.020 to commercial and residential; if the Commission reviewed specifications in the past; Section 12.32.025, "Permit Application", and revisions to design standards.

Chair Fragoso opened the Public Hearing.

Mr. Frank Egger, Meadow Way, made the following comments:

- Bolinas Road is the emergency fire evacuation route for over 3,000 residents.
- The Town should install signs with this information.
- Parklets should not be allowed on Bolinas Road.

Chair Fragoso closed the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Green provided the following comments:

- There could be complaints about outdoor entertainment.
- He wanted language inserted into Chapter 12.32.025 that would say: "Outdoor dining areas may not provide live or amplified entertainment of any kind".
- He would like a sunset period and the ability for the public to complain.

Commissioner Jansen provided the following comments:

- This will have a large effect on the appearance of the Town depending on how the specifications are put together.
- They are "putting the cart before the horse".
- Chapter 12.32.025 talks about building in the public streets or right-of-way which could be a lot of things. This needs to be tightened up and he recommended eliminating "right-of-way".
- The language in Chapter 17.096.040 is incomplete and the list includes things that should be deleted (car mechanic, bank) and added ("outdoor dining"). The number of intended uses is very limited.
- He supported streamlining this process and developing these uses depending on the specifications.
- He is not sure how a decision can be made without knowing the specifications.

Commissioner Newton provided the following comments:

- She asked if the specifications address the safety concerns raised by Mr. Egger and others including evacuation, accessibility, things blowing off, easy dismantling and removal, etc.
- The Commission has not opined about the issue of parklets.

Commissioner Green provided the following comments:

- He agreed with the comments made by Commissioners Newton and Jansen.
- He asked if the Commission received the new language of Chapter 12.032.025. Principal Planner Neal stated "no"- she read it out loud.
- He was concerned that the new language was not available to the public.

Chair Fragoso provided the following comments:

- She asked if the Council decided on a one-year extension on the existing short-term CUPs. Town Attorney Coleson stated she thought it was extended to the fall. Town Manager Abrams stated there is a July 29th check in date.

- She asked if the Commission could recommend prohibiting live music in the outdoor entertainment areas. Town Attorney Coleson stated “yes”.
- She asked if there would be an opportunity for the Commission to review the semi-final specifications. Town Attorney Coleson stated that is not part of the plan.
- The specifications are not within the Commission purview but rather they are being asked to give a recommendation on bifurcating the residential and commercial procedures for structures on private property or within a public right-of-way.

Commissioner Green provided the following comment:

- He referred to the Resolution and suggested the following changes: 1) On page 2, under “Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved”, it should read: “... the Planning Commission...this Ordinance, as *potentially amended based on a hearing of May 19th, public comments, and Commissioner language suggestions, may be consistent...*”

Town Attorney Coleson stated similar language could be added to the resolution.

Commissioner Newton provided the following comments:

- She is not a big fan of the idea of keeping parklets after the pandemic for a lot of reasons.
- She would recommendation that the Fire Department weigh in on some of the concerns regarding access, evacuation, etc.

Commissioner Jansen provided the following comment:

- The last page of the resolution should note this is a Special Commission meeting.

Commissioner Kelly provided the following comments:

- He was surprised that there will be built spaces that are not subject to Commission review or Design Review.

Commissioner Green made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2022-11 with language similar to Commissioner Green’s suggestion about concerns expressed by the Commission and the public. The motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Jansen provided the following comments:

- He remains concerned about not knowing the specifications. He needs to see them.
- He suggested a continuance.

Town Attorney Coleson stated the Council is on a tight time-frame and would like to see this brought to them at the June 1st meeting. The existing structures need to be modified by November 1st.

Chair Fragoso provided the following comment:

- She asked about the options. Town Attorney Coleson stated they could give a negative recommendation if they are unable to give a positive one.

Commissioner Newton provided the following comments:

- She could not second Commissioner Green’s motions since she is fundamentally opposed to the parklets.
- However, the Commission is not the deciding body.

Commissioner Green provided the following comment:

- There are too many outstanding issues to approve this.

Chair Fragoso provided the following comment:

- She asked if the Commission agreed with the bifurcation of the residential and commercial and to split the codes into different section.

Commissioner Green provided the following comment:

- They are very different with the commercial portion being more involved.
- Perhaps the Council needs to revisit this entire issue.

Town Attorney Coleson reiterated the Commission recommendation with respect to the code changes can be positive or negative.

Commissioner Jansen provided the following comment:

- He cannot make a determination in support or opposition until he sees the specifications.

Town Attorney Coleson stated staff is reluctant to bring things to the Commission that is not within their purview.

Commissioner Newton provided the following comments:

- She is not in favor of sending a message to the Council that they cannot make a decision without seeing the specifications. They are not in the Commission's purview.

Commissioner Jansen provided the following comment:

- He suggested denying the resolution because it is not a good idea to remove the commercial parts outside of the Commission's review.

Principal Planner Neal discussed the existing Encroachment Permit Process and the Permit Streamline Act. The Council is trying to avoid a long, drawn out process.

Chair Fragoso provided the following comments:

- The code should be bifurcated.
- It should be a ministerial review.
- The Commission can determine criteria for ministerial reviews.

M/s, Jansen/Newton, motion to recommend that the Council adopt the Ordinance which would bifurcate the code as suggested taking into consideration the comments made during this meeting

AYES: Green, Jansen, Newton, Chair Fragoso

NOES: Kelly

ABSENT: Swift

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni DeFrancis,
Recording Secretary

DRAFT FAIRFAX PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
WOMEN'S CLUB, 46 PARK ROAD
AND VIA TELECONFERENCE
THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2022

Call to Order/Roll Call:

Chair Fragoso called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Norma Fragoso (Chair)
Philip Green
Brett Kelly
Mimi Newton
Cindy Swift

Commissioners Absent: Robert Jansen

Staff Present: Linda Neal, Principal Planner
Janet Coleson, Town Attorney
Kylie Otto, Attorney
Kara Spencer, Associate Planner

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

M/s, Swift/Newton, motion to approve the agenda with the addition of the following: Commissioner Reports and Comments.

AYES: Green, Kelly, Newton, Swift, Chair Fragoso

ABSENT: Jansen

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no comments.

CONSENT CALENDAR

There were no Consent Calendar Items.

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

1. 217 Scenic Road; Application #22-08

Request for a Conditional Use Permit to remodel a 1,788 square foot home by converting a storage area to a bathroom, raising a portion of the roof to add clerestory windows, and expanding a deck 77 square feet; no expansion of building area would occur; APN # 001-121-56; RS-6 Single-Family Residential Zone; Rich Rushton, architect; Nicholas Pavis, owner, CEQA categorically exempt per Section 15301(e)(1).

Associate Planner Spencer presented the staff report. She answered questions from the Commission regarding whether the existing structure meets all of the zoning requirements including the height; the site plan and three different drawings; the alternate deck expansion; how far the

extension goes out from the existing deck in the central portion of the building; photographs from the adjacent property; if the proposal includes a new window above the deck;

Chair Fragoso opened the Public Hearing.

Mr. Nick Pavis, owner, made the following comments:

- The minor modifications will bring the property up to date.
- There is no intention to change windows except to lower one from waist height to floor height.
- He wanted to resolve any objections.
- His architect was adamant about meeting all the regulations.
- Nothing they are proposing is adding space or square feet.
- The new section of roof that is raising up is not part of the previous non-conformity.
- They are adding four feet of leg room to the deck.

Commissioner Newton asked Mr. Pavis if a study was on the other side of the top floor window. Mr. Pavis stated "yes". Commissioner Newton asked Mr. Pavis if he considered moving the bulk of the deck extension on the west side of the property. Mr. Pavis stated this was option was explored but the neighbor's home is pretty far away.

Principal Planner Neal stated if the Commission decided on this option then the application would need to be continued since it was not noticed for a Side-Yard Setback Variance.

Commissioner Green asked Mr. Pavis about the accuracy of one of the photographs from the neighbor.

Daniel McCormick and Mary O'Brien, Scenic Road, made the following comments:

- They are east of the proposed project.
- They have done some view studies.
- Their deck is eight feet deep.
- They have a clear view of the story poles and the large window from her shower.
- They would like the applicant to install some screening.
- The proposed deck looks into their entire downstairs.
- This is not something they have to live with at this point.

Chair Fragoso closed the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Newton provided the following comments:

- She was concerned about the sight line into the neighbor's bedroom and might prefer infringing upon the other setback that abuts a vacant lot that is used solely for parking.
- She asked if the deck could be moved to the middle (dead center).
- One of the purposes of a setback is to allow for privacy between neighbors.

Commissioner Green provided the following comments:

- The setbacks depicted in Page A2.1 are not "cast in stone". Principal Planner Neal stated it is a judgement code in terms of what side to put the minimum 5' setback on and which side to put the 15' setback on due to the ability to "combine".
- The window issue could be solved by having obscure glass at the bottom.

Chair Fragoso provided the following comments:

- She asked if a Variance would be required if the setbacks were flipped (alternate deck expansion). Principal Planner Neal stated "no". The Commission could impose a Condition of Approval that the Building Permit submittal show the deck as depicted in Drawing #3 on page 2.1 with the minimum and the combined setbacks (east and west) flipped.

Commissioner Swift provided the following comments:

- The window is going from three foot wide by four to three by six in the same location.
- The window is already there and she is not concerned about it being enlarged and lowered.
- She asked if the parcel to the west is buildable. Principal Planner Neal stated any vacant site is potentially a buildable site.

Chair Fragoso provided the following comment:

- It would not be a huge expense to have the architect flip the setbacks on the same set of plans.

Commissioner Kelly provided the following comments:

- That would be difficult to say- there are no framing plans. It appears the scope of the work would be quite similar.
- The social space and the neighbor's shower adjacent to each other are in conflict.
- There is an opportunity to make both places better.
- He would like the applicant to be flexible.
- He would support sliding the deck over.
- The alternate deck scheme is a possibility. The leading edge of this deck is no farther north than the existing deck and would be less of an imposition on the neighbor.

Chair Fragoso provided the following comments:

- She agreed with Commissioner Kelly's comments.

Commissioner Newton provided the following comments:

- She wondered about the cost of moving the deck.
- She suggested centering the deck at the center of the house or anywhere to the west of that point.
- She is not wild about the window expansion and suggested using opaque non-transparent windows.

Commissioner Kelly provided the following comment:

- Lowering the windowsill will provide sight lines deeper into the room.
- They should be thinking about the view angle.

Commissioner Green provided the following comments:

- Obscure windows would not benefit the owner but would take the neighbor's issue into consideration.
- A continuance would allow people to take another look.

Chair Fragoso provided the following comments:

- She would not like a deck that has a view into her private space.
- She would like to see the deck shifted to the other side.
- She is leaning towards the alternate deck expansion with some level of coverage of the window.
- The setbacks would not be a major issue.
- She is concerned about the depth of that window.

Mr. Pavis made the following comments:

- The window going down to the floor height was an interior design choice. It is not an issue to make it split into two panes and opaque.
- He would be willing to move the deck to the west and resubmit plans.

Commissioner Newton provided the following comments:

- She referred to the resolution and suggested the following changes: 1) On page 1, under Conditional Use Permit Findings, #1 should read: "...the proposed remodeling project will not encroach any further into the required individual side setbacks of the existing building"; 2) The addition of Condition #13: "The revised plan should be approved prior to the Building Permit being issued".
- The setback should be switched so the five foot is on the west and the fifteen foot setback is on the east side of the parcel.
- The Planning Department should have the discretion to approve the proposal with the middle of the deck being aligned with the middle of the house or further over so the western side of the expansion is on the western side of the existing deck.

M/s, Newton/Swift, motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-12 with the following changes: 1) 1) On page 1, under Conditional Use Permit Findings, #1 should read: "...the proposed remodeling project will not encroach any further into the required individual side setbacks of the existing building"; 2) The addition of Condition #13: "The revised plan should be approved prior to the Building Permit being issued". The setback should be switched so the five foot is on the west and the fifteen foot setback is on the east side of the parcel. The Planning Department should have the discretion to approve the proposal with the middle of the deck being aligned with the middle of the house or further over so the western side of the expansion is on the western side of the existing deck.

AYES: Green, Kelly, Newton, Swift, Chair Fragoso

ABSENT: Jansen

Chair Fragoso stated there was a 10 day appeal period.

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- 2. 136 Tamalpais Rd.; Application #22-09;
Request for Hill Area Residential Development, Tree Removal, Encroachment, and Excavation Permits, and Front-Yard Setback and Minimum and Combined Side-Yard Setback Variances to construct a 413 s.f. garage with a 164 s.f., second floor, storage room addition to a 1,210 s.f. single-family residence; APN #001-121-22; Residential Single-family RS 6 Zone; Laura Kehrlein, architect; Robin Hubinsky, owner; CEQA Categorically exempt per Section 15301(e)(1).**

Principal Planner Neal presented the staff report. She noted there was an error in the staff report- there are two (not one) lights proposed on the front of the garage. She noted the following corrections to the Resolution: 1) On page 1, the second "Whereas" should read: "...*the Commission held* a duly noticed public hearing on the proposed project."; 2) On page 3, under Encroachment Permit, it should read: "The... (one wing *of the* retaining wall)..."; 3) On page 5, Conditions #8 and #9 were switched and the redundant wording was eliminated; 4) On page 5, the addition of the following to Condition #10: "The approved Tree Permit must be kept on the job site and the applicant must verify that the tree company performing the tree work has a current Fairfax Business License"; 5) On page 6, Condition #15 was added: "Construction shall be prohibited during the Northern Spotted Owl nesting season from February 1st through July 31st unless a plan for allowing construction activities during this period is submitted by a qualified Spotted Owl biologist and approved by the State with documentation of approval provided to the Town prior to initiating any construction activities. All requirements listed in the plan including potential on-site monitoring must always be met by the applicants."; 6) On page 8, Condition #25 should read: "The project... sprinkler system *in the garage structure*..."; 7) On page 10, the language regarding a second driveway should be deleted; 8) On page 13, the second paragraph should read: "The approval... Design Review, *Excavation, Encroachment, and Tree Removal... and a minimum Side Yard and Combined Side Yard Setbacks Variance to allow construction of a garage storage structure in the...*"; 8) The wording in the title should match the wording in the "Now, therefore..." paragraph.

Chair Fragoso opened the Public Hearing.

Ms. Laura Kehrlein, architect, made the following comments:

- The staff report was straight-forward.
- They worked through all the drainage and engineering issues.
- This is a sensitive site.
- The homeowner is trying to clear up some irregularities.
- The retaining walls will help protect the property.
- She referred to the resolution, page 10, Condition #50 and stated there is no sidewalk required; on page 11, Condition #55 should reference Civil Engineer Overkamper and not ILS Associates; Conditions #57, 58, and 59 do not apply to this project.

Principal Planner Neal agreed that Condition #57, #58, and #59 should be removed. She noted the correct reports and consultants are listed on page 4 under the "Whereas". Commissioner Newton stated the sentence about that should read: "The project is approved based on the work being performed in accordance with the conditions and recommendations set forth in the following plans and reports".

Ms. Robin Hubinsky, owner, made the following comments:

- This is a straight forward plan-
- They want to create a parking space, clean up some legacy easements and encroachments, provide a better space for garbage, walkways and improve the property.
- They are trying to complement the existing house.
- There are complexities to the site.

Ms. Kristin Amlie, Tamalpais Road, made the following comments:

- She lives next door.
- The drainage from the subject property goes underneath her driveway.
- She has not heard any details about the project. There has been no communication.
- She would like to get copies of plans, reports, etc. and have time to review this information before a decision is made.

Ms. Linda County made the following comments:

- She lives across the street.
- She found out about the project his week.
- She wants to learn more about the project.

Principal Planner Neal stated staff sent a notice to all property owners within a 300 foot radius ten days before the meeting. This is required by State law.

Ms. Hubinsky made the following comments:

- The story poles were installed two weeks ago.
- They would be respectful of people coming in and out of driveways and during the construction process.
- They have tried to keep everyone in the loop.

Chair Fragoso closed the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Green provided the following comments:

- This is an extremely complex project for a garage but very carefully thought-out.
- The project would be a major improvement to the property and the neighborhood.

Commissioner Kelly provided the following comments:

- The house is an asset to the street in terms of scale, proportions, and siting.
- The house is lovely.
- The new massing is a graceful addition.
- The garage addition is well done.
- He did not think there was another way to get parking on the site.
- The engineering reports were done well and anything that can be done in terms of water management is an asset to the hill.
- He is in favor of the project.

Chair Fragoso provided the following comments:

- The engineering and drainage analysis made sure that there is no runoff to the street or adjacent properties.
- The garage is well designed.
- The project will be a huge improvement for the property and the neighborhood.
- She is supportive of the project.

Commissioner Swift provided the following comments:

- She supports the project.
- She referred to the resolution and suggested the following changes: 1) On page 4, Condition #6, should refer to the Ross Valley Fire Department; 2) On page 12, Condition #60, the last sentence should be deleted.

M/s, Newton/Swift, motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-13 with the following revisions: 1) On page 1, the second "Whereas" should read: "...*the Commission held* a duly noticed public hearing on the proposed project."; 2) On page 3, under Encroachment Permit, it should read: "The...(one wing of *the retaining wall*)..."; 3) On page 5, Conditions #8 and #9 were switched and the redundant wording was eliminated; 4) On page 5, the addition of the following to Condition #10: "The approved Tree Permit must be kept on the job site and the applicant must verify that the tree company performing the tree work has a current Fairfax Business License"; 5) On page 7, Condition #15 was added: "Construction shall be prohibited during the Northern Spotted Owl nesting season from February 1st through July 31st unless a plan for allowing construction activities during this period is submitted by a qualified Spotted Owl biologist and approved by the State with documentation of approval provided to the Town prior to initiating any construction activities. All requirements listed in the plan including potential on-site monitoring must always be met by the applicants"; 6) On page 9, Condition #25 should read: "The project...sprinkler system *in the garage structure*..."; 7) On page 11, the language regarding a second driveway should be deleted; the reference to ILS Associates should be changed to the Overkamp report of July 1, 2021; and Conditions #56, #57, and #58 should be deleted; 8) On page 13, the second paragraph should read: "The approval... Design Review, *Excavation, Encroachment, and Tree Removal... and a minimum Side Yard and Combined Side Yard Setbacks Variance to allow construction of a garage storage structure in the*..."; 8) The wording in the title should match the wording in the "Now, therefore..." paragraph; 9) On page 4, under the "Whereas" it should read: "The project ...based on the *work being performed in accordance with the conditions and recommendations set forth in the following plans and reports*"; Condition #6, should refer to the Ross Valley Fire *Department*; 11) On page 12, Condition #60, the last sentence should be deleted.
AYES: Green, Kelly, Newton, Swift, Chair Fragoso
ABSENT: Jansen

Chair Fragoso stated there was a 10 day appeal period.

3. 152 Porteous Ave.; Application #22-10

Request for a Hill Area Residential Development, Design Review, Tree Removal Permits and a Parking Variance to construct a 1,011 s.f., 2-story addition to an existing 714 s.f.

residence; APN # 002-071-09; Residential Single-family RS 6 Zone; Peter Brown, applicant/owner; CEQA categorically exempt per Section 15301(e)(1).

Principal Planner Neal presented the staff report. The Public Works Department does not support parking spaces that cover the public sidewalk. The revised landscaping plan does not match the approved Vegetative Management Plan. The Ross Valley Fire Department will not allow plants that exceed four inches in height in those planting beds on either side of the sidewalk or any plants within four feet of a structure. If approved, the project should be conditioned on use of the original Vegetative Management Plan and not the landscape plan. The following condition should be added to the resolution: "Construction shall be prohibited during the Northern Spotted Owl nesting season from February 1st through July 31st unless a plan for allowing construction activities during this period is submitted by a qualified Spotted Owl biologist and approved by the State with documentation of approval provided to the Town prior to initiating any construction activities. All requirements listed in the plan including potential on-site monitoring must always be met by the applicants". She answered a question regarding the location of the addition relative to the story poles;

Chair Fragoso opened the Public Hearing.

Mr. Peter Brown, applicant, made the following comments:

- The house has some deferred maintenance issues.
- They have the support of the neighbors and signed affidavits.
- This is an owner/builder project.
- They will do this as expeditiously as possible.
- The design appearance will be in line with the neighborhood.

Commissioner Green asked Mr. Brown about the Public Works Department recommendation for a driveway approach accessing an additional parking space that would be parallel to the front wall. Mr. Brown stated he has not had time to think about this recent development. Justin Brown

Justin made the following comments:

- He will be the one banging the nails.
- He laid out the site plan and measured from the curb to the sidewalk and the sidewalk to the new retaining wall. One car will fit bumper to bumper.
- Parking is a concern on that street.
- They are converting the garage back to a garage.

A resident made the following comment:

- The presence of a sidewalk is very important for the community as an amenity.

Chair Fragoso closed the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Swift provided the following comments:

- She supported the project.
- This is not the first application that has a request to widen the existing driveway or put in a second driveway. This Variance has to go to the Town Council. It is something the Commission should be able to address.

Chair Fragoso provided the following comments:

- This is a nice project and will be a significant improvement to the property.

M/s, Swift/Kelly, motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-14 with the following revisions: 1) On page 6, the addition of the following Condition after Condition #12: "Construction shall be prohibited during the Northern Spotted Owl nesting season from February 1st through July 31st unless a plan for allowing construction activities during this period is submitted by a qualified Spotted Owl biologist

and approved by the State with documentation of approval provided to the Town prior to initiating any construction activities. All requirements listed in the plan including potential on-site monitoring must always be met by the applicants”

AYES: Green, Kelly, Newton, Swift, Chair Fragoso

ABSENT: Jansen

Chair Fragoso stated there was a 10 day appeal period.

The Commissioner took a 5-minute break at 10:00 p.m.

4. Senate Bill 9-Related Ordinance; Continued consideration of an Ordinance amending Fairfax Town Code by adding Chapter 16.22 Urban Lot Splits and Chapter 17.049 Two Unit Projects. This ordinance is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) as an action by a city or county implementing the provisions of Government Code Sections 65852.21 and 66411.7)

Town Attorney Coleson presented the staff report. She and Attorney Otto answered questions from the Commission regarding occupancy certifications; concept of requiring occupancy of the premises for a period of time; matching architecture; prohibition against short-term rentals.

Chair Fragoso opened the Public Hearing.

There were no comments.

Chair Fragoso closed the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Green provided the following comment:

- He supported the staff recommendation.

Commissioner Swift provided the following comments:

- She referred to the ordinance, top of page 8 and page 17, under Architecture (iii), and suggested the following change: “All exterior lighting *fixtures must be Dark Sky compliant...fully shielded...illumination and emit no light above the horizontal plane with no sag or drop lenses, side light panels or uplight panels and with a color temperature of no more than 3,000 Kelvin. No landscape...*”.
- There is one plant that is on the Fire Safe Marin’s Fire Smart list but also on the Town’s Undesirable Tree Species list. She recommended deleting the reference to the Town’s Tree Code and retain the Fire Safe Marin’s Fire Safe list.

Chair Fragoso provided the following comments:

- She supports SB9.
- The housing market does not create affordable housing.
- They need small affordable units in Town and this is an opportunity to create infill housing.
- She understood the prohibition of short-term rentals on these split units. Short-term rentals remove units from the housing market.
- She is ready to move forward with this item.

Commissioner Newton provided the following comments:

- She asked if the State set a lower size threshold for units. Attorney Otto stated “no”.
- She asked if Fairfax has its own minimum size for a unit in the residential area. Principal Planner Neal stated the Building Code or Property Management Code does set a minimum size of 500 square feet.
- She envisions an Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) or Junior Accessory Dwelling Units (JADU) as a tiny, extra unit. She does not think a 500 square foot unit is little.

- Small units will give them affordable housing.

Commissioner Green provided the following comments:

- Page 5 of the ordinance talks about unit size.
- The Town Council seems to be committed to affordable housing.
- AirBNB's should be taxed.

Chair Fragoso provided the following comments:

- The Town has a 200 square foot minimum for a garage conversion and a smaller sized limit for a JADU.
- A JADU is not required to be 500 square feet.
- Things should not be "matchy-matchy".

Commissioners Swift provided the following comment:

- She is fine with the size limits as written.
- There is a difference between requiring "matchy-matchy" for structures on one lot as opposed to an entire block.
- She is fine with that aspect of the code.

Commissioner Newton provided the following comments:

- Staff should mark out the roads and areas in the Town that are designated an evacuation route along with the endangered species habitats.
- The General Plan Policies that are consistent with this proposal should be called out in the ordinance.

Commissioner Kelly provided the following comments:

- He referred to the "matchy-matchy" issue and stated he saw it as more as congruent.
- It is talking about projects within itself and not matching anything down the road. He is in support.
- He would support going as low at 200 square feet.

Chair Fragoso provided the following comment:

- She likes the new wording and the chart.

Commissioner Green provided the following comments:

- He would like to see a "Whereas" added the included a statement about General Plan Policy consistency with a list of the sections.
- A map should be added to the ordinance showing the pertinent areas that are covered.

M/s, Green/Kelly, motion to approve Resolution No 2022-03 with the suggested changes.

AYES: Green, Kelly, Newton, Swift, Chair Fragoso

ABSENT: Jansen

MINUTES

5. Minutes from the April 28, 2022 Planning Commission meetings

M/s, Newton/Kelly, motion to approve the April 28, 2022 minutes as corrected.

AYES: Green, Kelly, Newton, Swift, Chair Fragoso

ABSENT: Jansen

Commissioner Comments and Requests

Commissioner Green encouraged everyone to install solar panels and have fun watching the meter run backwards ! He noted there were numerous signs in Town in a derelict condition, some that are protecting children.

Chair Fragoso asked about the upcoming Joint Meeting with the Town Council. Principal Planner Neal stated the tentative dates are June 15th or June 29th. Town Attorney Coleson stated June 29th will not work and it might have to wait until July or August.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 11:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni DeFrancis,
Recording Secretary