

**PLANNING COMMISSION
CITY OF RAMSEY
ANOKA COUNTY
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

The Ramsey Planning Commission conducted a special meeting on Thursday, May 19, 2011, at the Ramsey Municipal Center, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW, Ramsey, Minnesota.

Members Present: Vice Chairperson Gary Van Scoy
Commissioner Andrew Dunaway
Commissioner Joseph Field
Commissioner Robert Schiller

Members Absent: Chairperson Gary Levine
Commissioner Randy Bauer
Commissioner Ralph Brauer

Also Present: Senior Planner Tim Gladhill
Economic Development/Marketing Manager Aaron Backman
Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Chris Anderson

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairperson Van Scoy called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

CITIZEN INPUT

There was none.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Dunaway, seconded by Commissioner Field, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion Carried. Voting Yes: Vice Chairperson Van Scoy, Commissioners Dunaway, Schiller, and Field. Voting No: None. Absent: Chairperson Levine, Commissioners Bauer and Brauer.

APPROVE PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

There were none.

NOTE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

1) There were none.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/COMMISSION BUSINESS

Case #1: Public Hearing – Request for a Conditional Use Permit to Exceed Sign Size Restrictions at 7231 Sunwood Dr. NW; Case of Allina Medical Clinic.

Public Hearing

Vice Chairperson Van Scoy called the public hearing to order at 6:01 p.m.

Presentation

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson presented the Staff Report.

Citizen Input

There was none.

Motion by Commissioner Dunaway, seconded by Vice Chair Van Scoy, to close the public hearing.

Motion Carried. Voting Yes: Vice Chairperson Van Scoy, Commissioners Dunaway, Field, and Schiller. Voting No: None. Absent: Chairperson Levine, Commissioners Bauer and Brauer.

The public hearing closed at 6:06 p.m.

Commission Business

Vice Chairperson VanScoy asked if the Applicant was willing to reduce the size of the logo on the monument sign.

Kristian Thonvold of Allina Hospitals and Clinics stated Allina would be open to the request, but would need additional information.

Vice Chairperson VanScoy inquired if the wall to serve as the monument sign has already been constructed.

Mr. Thonvold confirmed in the affirmative.

Associate Planner/Environmental Coordinator Anderson reviewed the proposed locations of the signs.

Commissioner Schiller stated he was in favor of the request as presented by the Applicant.

Commissioner Field reviewed the intent of the monument sign to attract attention to the entrance of the parking lot.

Mr. Thonvold confirmed and reviewed the location of the signs and stated that the proposed signs have the highest visibility facing west.

Brian Elsesser of Designer Sign Systems stated a larger logo is desired for visibility purposes.

Discussion ensued regarding current sign regulations and how square footage is calculated.

Senior Planner Gladhill reviewed the upcoming potential amendments to the City's sign code and the City's desire for more flexibility. Senior Planner Gladhill stated this request appears to generally be in line with those discussions, especially in terms of construction specifications of the proposed lettering.

Discussion ensued regarding proposed sign size as well as current procedures and regulations related to sign review.

Economic Development/Marketing Manager Backman clarified that no sign is being proposed along Ramsey Boulevard.

Vice Chairperson Van Scoy stated he desired the logo height on the monument sign to be lowered.

Commissioner Schiller stated he believed that the logo would not stand out enough if the height was lowered.

Discussion ensued regarding locations of signs and visibility from Ramsey Boulevard.

Senior Planner Gladhill reviewed the original conceptual drawings that were part of the site plan review which showed lettering on the glass façade facing Ramsey Boulevard. Senior Planner Gladhill stated it was his understanding that lettering on the glass façade did not provide enough contrast to give adequate visibility of the letters, so the Applicant amended the sign plan as shown today.

Mr. Thonvold stated that they would be willing to reduce the logo height to 30 inches.

Motion by Commissioner Dunaway, seconded by Commissioner Field, to recommend City Council approve the resolution adopting findings of fact favorable relating to Allina Medical Clinic's request for a conditional use permit to exceed sign size restrictions established in City Code, and reducing the logo height on the monument sign to 30 inches..

Motion Carried. Voting Yes: Vice Chairperson Van Scoy, Commissioners Dunaway, Field, and Schiller. Voting No: None. Absent: Chairperson Levine, Commissioners Bauer and Brauer.

Motion by Commissioner Dunaway, seconded by Commissioner Field, to recommend City Council approve the issuance of a conditional use permit based on findings of fact relating to Allina Medical Clinic's request and adopt the resolution declaring the terms and reducing the height of the monument sign logo to 30 inches.

Motion Carried. Voting Yes: Vice Chairperson Van Scoy, Commissions Dunaway, Field, and Schiller. Voting No: None. Absent: Chairperson Levine, Commissioners Brauer and Bauer.

OTHER COMMISSION BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Vice Chairperson Van Scoy, seconded by Commissioner Dunaway, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion Carried. Voting Yes: Vice Chairperson Van Scoy, Commissioners Dunaway, Field, and Schiller. Voting No: None. Absent: Chairperson Levine, Commissioners Bauer and Brauer.

The regular meeting of the Planning Commission adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Gladhill
Senior Planner

ATTEST:

JoAnn Shaw
Planning Division Secretary