

**MINUTES OF MEETING
SOUTH ST. PAUL PLANNING COMMISISON
May 1, 2019**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIR YENDELL AT 7:00 P.M.

Present: Isaac Contreras
Angela DesMarais
Timothy Felton
Justin Humenik
Ruth Krueger
Jason Pachl
Stephanie Yendell
Peter Hellegers, City Planner

Others Present: Pete Defers, Mike Steinmetz

- 1) APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Motion to approve the agenda as presented – Humenik/Contreras (7-0)
- 2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 3, 2019 – approved as presented Pachl/Felton (7-0)
- 3) NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss at the time of the meeting.

4) PUBLIC HEARINGS

A) PC Case #2019-06: South St. Paul Rod and Gun Club, 600 Gun Club Rd, South St Paul, MN 55075 - An application for an extension to an existing Interim Use Permit (IUP).

Mr. Hellegers spoke to the applicant's request with details of the IUP for the 8-lane firing enclosure. Pete Defers and Mike Steinmetz were present to represent the South St. Paul Rod and Gun Club. Mr. Steinmetz spoke to why they were requesting the IUP. Due to lack of funding, the IUP had not been used. The applicants had received a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) grant that would allow them finish the structure for the rifle/pistol enclosure.

Discussion ensued regarding previous site related concerns including exterior storage/ excess clutter, flooding and permits for the rifle firing shed. Mr. Steinmetz noted any exterior storage onsite is not permanent and any clutter is temporary due to construction. Mr. Steinmetz also addressed the runoff and flooding concerns on-site.

Chair Yendell queried whether the club had a permit for the current pistol structure. The representatives noted they had spoken to the previous manager who had assured them a permit had been drawn for the cement floor of the building.

Commissioner Contreras inquired more information regarding building details and funding for the new structure. Mr. Steinmetz noted that with the DNR funding would allow for this project to be completed, hopefully within the year. Mr. Defers noted that the new structure would be an extension of the pistol bay. Mr. Defers reassured Commissioners Contreras that the club will be able to obtain the permanent structure within three years and the club would not need to come back in three year for another conditional use permit.

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Commissioner Humenik asked if the new structure would be enclosed to help with noise mitigation. Mr. Steinmetz noted that the new structure would be enclosed and the club hopes to enclose the pistol range in the near future.

Commissioner Krueger noted the concerns voiced by the City of Inver Grove Heights and Dakota County. Mr. Hellegers received correspondence from City of Inver Grove Heights and Dakota County Parks with concerns of the firing range being adjacent to a county park and city trail. Mr. Steinmetz noted that there are three layers of safety features that prevent bullets from leaving the range. The range meets and exceeds the DNR's safety standards for ranges. Chair Yendell addressed the remaining concerns which included maintenance of the 25 foot berm, the use of semiautomatic weapons on the range, annual inspections of the range and that no blue skies are able to be seen from the range, standard operating procedures for the club. The Rod and Gun Club representatives addressed each of the concerns.

Chair Yendell reviewed all of the compliance conditions for the original IUP to ensure all previous conditions had been met. Conditions that had not been met were further discussed with the representatives.

Chair Yendell opened the public hearing.

Eric Carlson, Director of Parks and Recreation for Inver Grove Heights, was present for comment. Mr. Carlson respectfully requested the Commission give the requests and concerns in the correspondence consideration in review of the IUP.

No additional correspondence was received.

Chair Yendell closed the public hearing.

Chair Yendell recommended adding a specific time frame to the listed compliance conditions, specifically regarding conducting noise testing, establishing standard operating procedures, and adding tie downs to the property by June 30, 2019. The representatives noted that they felt the time frame was appropriate for the project.

Discussion ensued regarding the necessity of tie downs on the site.

Motion to approve with the IUP as amended - Krueger/Pachl (7-0)

B) PC Case #2019-07: South St. Paul Rod and Gun Club, 600 Gun Club Rd, South St Paul, MN 55075 - An application requesting an amendment to an existing Interim Use Permit (IUP) for the use of a converted semi-trailer as a firing enclosure on the Gun Club Property.

Mr. Hellegers explained the continued use of a converted semi-trailer as temporary firing enclosure for the 5-stand shotgun range.

Chair Yendell asked for clarification of the history on the IUP. Mr. Hellegers reported the history of the IUP for the site.

Commissioner Pachl noted that using a converted semi-trailer is common amongst gun clubs but he would like to see a more permanent structure.

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Commissioner Contreras inquired the age of the trailer and upkeep of the trailer. The applicants responded that they were unsure of the exact age of the trailer.

Commissioner Humenik noted trailers are not considered structures under City Code and inquired how committed the applicant was to creating a permanent structure. The representatives noted that they plan to replace the trailer but do not know when the funds would be available for them to complete the project.

Chair Yendell suggested a language change to condition seven so it would read “it shall be kept in a maintained condition so the trailer could be moved in the event of a flood” to address Commissioner Contreras’s comment on upkeep of the trailer.

Chair Yendell opened the public hearing.

No one was present to comment on the application nor was there any correspondence received.

Chair Yendell closed the public hearing.

The Commissioners discussed whether the IUP should be for 3 or 5 years.

Motion to approve the IUP as amended - Contreras/Humenik (7-0)

C) PC Case #2019-08: South St. Paul Rod and Gun Club, 600 Gun Club Rd, South St Paul, MN 55075- An application requesting an extension to an existing Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a berm on the north end of the property.

Mr. Hellegers explained the project was not started within one year of the issue date of the CUP so it had expired, which is why the case was before the Commission.

Commissioner Felton asked if there was anything new to the CUP. Mr. Hellegers stated no changes had been made other than the extension.

Mr. Steinmetz explained the site had been too wet in the previous year so they had not been able to make progress on the berm.

Chair Yendell opened the public hearing.

No one was present to comment on the application nor was there any correspondence received.

Chair Yendell closed the public hearing.

Motion to approve the Conditional Use Permit as presented - Krueger/Contreras (7-0)

D) PC Case #2018-29: Northern Battery, 1111 Concord Street S, South St Paul, MN 55075- A minor amendment to the site plan.

Mr. Hellegers explained the changes to site plan were to include the placement of a door at the front of the building and driveway access to the loading docks.

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Chair Yendell inquired if there were safety concerns with trucks backing through the parking on the other side of the drive through. Mr. Hellegers responded that most of the parking would be employee parking.

The Commissioners did not provide any addition concern or comments.

OTHER BUSINESS

Updates:

Mr. Hellegers spoke to the upcoming Community Events:

On May 2nd, a mural is being painted at the Doug Woog Arena (141 6th Street South). All are welcome to come paint.

On May 4th at 10:00am, McMorrow Field (200 South East Street) will be celebrating its Grand Re-opening. Everyone is encouraged to attend the dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony at 10:00am.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:45 PM – Felton/ DesMarais (7-0)