

PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

April 11, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mrs. Evans
Mr. Griffith
Mr. Jones
Mr. Scarce
Mr. Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Jennings
Mr. Laramore

STAFF

Alan Spencer
Ken Gillie
Emily Scolpini
Renee Blair

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Griffith at 3:00 p.m.

I. ITEMS FOR PUBLIC HEARING

1. *Special Use Permit Application PLSUP2011000063, filed by Stuart Lovelace on behalf of TRELUV, LLC., requesting a Special Use Permit to operate a group home in accordance with Article 3E: Section C, Item 9, of Chapter 41 of the Code of the City of Danville, Virginia, 1986, as amended at 157 Broad Street, otherwise known as Grid 1719, Block 008, Parcel 000003 of the City of Danville, Virginia, Zoning District Map. The applicant is proposing to operate a group home.*

Mr. Griffith stated the applicant has submitted a letter requesting that this item be tabled until the May Planning Commission meeting.

Mr. Gillie stated there has been a request to have this item tabled. It was tabled at the last meeting to allow us to work with him. He has asked again to have this item tabled.

Mr. Griffith stated I think they are still trying to get information together. I think as a formality we need to open the public hearing.

Open the Public Hearing.

No one was present on behalf of the request.

Close the Public Hearing.

Mr. Scarce made a motion to table Special Use Permit Application PLSUP201000063. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

2. *Rezoning Application PLRZ20110000109, filed by Thien Nguyen, requesting to amend the Year 2020 Land Use Plan from Public and Semi-Public Areas to Community Service and to rezone from TO-C, Transitional Office Commercial to N-C Neighborhood Commercial, 1.48 acres at 136 Franklin Turnpike, otherwise known as Grid 2806, Block 110, Parcel 0000003 of the City of Danville, Virginia, Zoning District Map. The applicant is requesting to rezone to expand permitted uses.*

Miss Scolpini read the Staff Report. Thirty-two (32) notices were mailed to surrounding property owners within three hundred (300) feet of the subject property. Eight (8) respondents were unopposed to the request; zero (0) were opposed to the request.

Open the Public Hearing.

No one was present on behalf of the request.

Close the Public Hearing.

Mr. Scearce made a motion to recommend approval of Rezoning Application PLRZ20110000109 as submitted. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote.

3. *To receive comments on two "Safe Routes to Schools" grants from the Virginia Department of Transportation Funds have been awarded to install sidewalks to serve Gibson Middle School and Bonner Middle School, and traffic signage at Forest Hills Schools.*

Mr. Gillie read a letter submitted by City Engineer, A. Kent Shelton.

Mr. Gillie stated as part of the grant process Planning Commission is required to hold a Public Hearing to receive any comments. Planning Commission does not have to take any action on it. We just need to open the floor up, receive any comments, note those comments, and respond back to VDOT stating that we held the Public Hearing and these were the comments.

Open the Public Hearing.

No comments were received.

Mr. Griffith stated it seems to me if the State is going to give us the money and it does not cost the City anything and we do not have to match it, we would accept it I would guess.

Close the Public Hearing.

Mr. Griffith asked did you say that we do not need to take any action?

Mr. Gillie responded no, there is no action. We just need the minutes to show that we opened the public hearing, held the public hearing and that it was dually advertised. We will respond to VDOT appropriately.

Mr. Jones asked where are you going to put the light? They usually have a police lady there. Will she still be there when the light is put in?

Mr. Gillie responded for that I will ask our City Engineer who is in charge of this project to respond.

Mr. Shelton asked are you talking about the crossing guard?

Mr. Jones responded yes.

Mr. Shelton stated I am not aware of any changes being made to that.

Mr. Jones stated ok, so she will be there even when the light is there.

III. MINUTES

Mrs. Evans made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 7, 2011 meeting. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by a 5-0 vote.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Gillie stated City Council approved the one (1) item that you had from last month. I am sorry. They followed your recommendation of denial for the internet cafe. We do have a meeting next month, because we have an item that has been tabled. In your packet you have a fold out map, which is the long range transportation plan. That is the new version of the City's MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization), which is the City and the urbanized area of Pittsylvania County's long range transportation plan. If anyone remembers the old map, this one (1) has a lot less lines on it than what the old one (1) did. They require now that all roads be fiscally constrained, what can actually be afforded. Based on the reduction in transportation funding, you will notice there are substantially less projects. They tried to focus on just what is being constructed now or what we could fund in the future. This copy is just for your information. I wanted everyone to be aware of it and have it available as we are going through the Comprehensive Plan process. We do have a transportation section of it. Our consultant has been made aware of this plan. It will be included in that final version of the draft Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Jones asked do you know, in your opinion, if the new bridge is on schedule?

Mr. Gillie responded in my opinion and what I have heard, the new bridge is actually ahead of schedule. They are slightly ahead of schedule, but that is one (1) of those things where you have got to kind of knock on wood because a couple good days of rain could take it out.

Mr. Griffith stated so far I do not think they have let the weather slow them down. I have been by there when it was sleeting, snowing, it was so cold I do not know how they stood it but they would be out there working.

Mr. Gillie stated I hate to say it, but we have lucked out not having flooding and other things on that pad area and that coffer dam that they are using to block the river. They really have not had to evacuate that for any high water. They have been able to continue to work on that lower section. I probably just jinxed them by saying it, but things have been going very well on that project.

Mr. Griffith stated I have been impressed by the times that I have been across there. A couple months ago it was snowing. It was so cold I do not know how they stood it to be out there and they were out working. They do not have seemed to have missed a beat that I can tell.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

APPROVED