

**MINUTES OF THE BROOKLYN PARK PLANNING COMMISSION  
WORK SESSION**

July 22, 2009

**Approved Minutes**

Those present were: Commissioners Conn, Jechorek, Johansen, Johnson, Lessard, Nguyen, Sullivan, Lessard; Director of Community Development Schreier; Planning Director Sherman; Senior Planner Larson; and Intern Abigail Shafer.

Those excused were: Commissioner Holm

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Johansen called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

**2. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Commercial Vehicles in Residential Areas**

Planning Director Sherman introduced Abigail Shafer, an intern with the Code Enforcement and Public Health Division. Sherman stated that the Council is looking for direction for commercial vehicles parked in residential areas on private property.

Intern Shafer stated that the vehicles that are not permitted are based on weight or type. They typically give a homeowner ten days to correct the violation.

Commissioner Lessard asked if vehicles are allowed for a short time. Shafer stated they are not allowed at all.

Director Schreier stated that the council wanted discussion about parking on private property. He explained that this discussion started with a discussion about on-street parking.

Commissioner Lessard stated that his father drives truck and he has sympathy for the driver having the cab home for a short time or weekend.

Shafer stated that many cities have height limitations on vans or trucks where equipment has been added.

Director Schreier stated that the Council looked at this topic four years ago and opted to do nothing. Now that times are different, they want to look at it again.

Sherman stated that simplicity in the rules help from an enforcement standpoint as well as understanding by the residents, which is why a lot of cities have the overall height requirements. Shafer added that a lot of cities have different definitions of commercial vehicles.

Larson asked if Code Enforcement received a lot of complaints about the vans with ladders. Shafer stated that they do not receive many, but when people complain, they are adamant about it. Commissioner Johansen stated that most people probably do not know they are illegal.

Shafer explained that the same van without the racks, but with graphics is allowed; also if the racks are not carrying any equipment.

Commissioner Kupka stated that Maple Grove does not allow vehicles with graphics.

Commissioner Johansen stated that the vehicles with graphics or equipment are obviously commercial vehicles. He stated that he is bothered that they have regular license plates, but acknowledged that is a state thing.

Commissioner Conn asked how they would define them. Commissioner Johansen stated he would like to use the height of the equipment from the roof as well as an overall height. Commissioner Jechorek stated that she likes the height limit idea.

Commissioner Johnson suggested a number of vehicles per property. Shafer stated that some cities limit the number of commercial vehicles on a property.

Sherman stated that they will try to do some refinement and some more investigation. She stated that she would like to explore the graphics restrictions. She stated that she will find out why some of these vehicles have regular plates.

Commissioner Lessard suggested that some people put graphics on their vehicles for income tax purposes.

Commissioner Johansen asked what the Commission thought about the semi-tractors. Commissioner Kupka stated that any semi-tractor that is parked in his neighborhood would be a violation of the association rules.

Commissioner Johansen asked if the owners could get permits to park. Commissioner Conn stated that he is not in favor of making people pay. Commissioner Lessard stated that it would be a way to make people acknowledge the parking rules. Sherman stated that staff will look into it.

Director Schreier stated that the City Council will have a discussion about all this as well.

## **B. Accessory & Temporary Structures**

Senior Planner Larson explained that there has been interest in one of the churches in the city to construct a new shed on their property, but because they are in a business zoning district, they could not. A representative from Grace Lutheran Church was present. Larson explained that staff talked with the City Attorney about the matter and he suggested some general language does not single out religious uses, but in effect allows them and day cares to have accessory buildings.

The consensus of the Commission was that allowing accessory structures on religious properties was reasonable.

Larson asked for feedback on allowing tents or canopies to protect cars or boats. The consensus was that they should continue not to be allowed.

Commissioner Johansen asked if this was related in simplifying the number of zoning districts. Sherman stated that was still a goal, but that the two could happen independently and not affect each other.

Larson stated that the residential uses portion of the zoning code was confusing and disjointed. A goal of revising the zoning code was to make it more user-friendly. He stated that more work would be done with this section and it would return in the upcoming months.

### **C. Mills Fleet Farm**

Planning Director Sherman stated that the City Council approved Mills' request to create a new frontage road around the west and north side of the Fleet Farm store at Monday night's meeting. The new road would result in rebuilding some parking lots and removing a portion of the car wash building. Variances would be needed for the setbacks from some of the buildings to the new roads. Sherman explained that it was information as to what will be coming in front of the Commission at a public hearing and did not want any feedback right now.

### **3. Information Items**

**A. Committee/Commission Updates** – None.

**B. Council Update** – None.

### **4. Other Business**

**A. Minutes from June 24, 2009, Work Session.**

MOTION JOHANSEN, SECOND NGUYEN, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JUNE 24, 2009. *Motion carried unanimously.*

**5. Adjournment** – With no other business, the Commission adjourned at 9:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Todd A. Larson,  
Senior Planner