



**CITY OF LONG LAKE
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 14, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Erickson.

Present: Commission Members Adams, Erickson, Jerde, and Stephenson; City Administrator, Scott Weske; City Planning Consultant/Interim Zoning Administrator Addison Lewis; and Mayor Hultmann.

Absent: Commission Member Hughes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVE AGENDA

Commissioner Jerde moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Adams seconded. Ayes: all.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes of the July 8, 2014 Planning Commission Meeting

Commissioner Adams moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Jerde seconded. Ayes: all.

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Hearing: Planning Case #2014-05/Ashley and Becky Brandt, 306 Wolf Pointe Trail, Request for a Variance to Allow Construction of Pool and Retaining Wall Within 50-Foot Wetland Setback

City Planning Consultant/Interim Zoning Administrator Lewis presented a request for a variance to allow construction of a pool and retaining wall within the 50-foot wetland setback. He explained that the project would provide a setback of 44 feet and noted that this is an after the fact request as the building permit has already been issued and construction has begun. He advised that the applicant has been planning this project for two to three years and referenced a large drainage and utility easement in this area, which

extends 25 feet beyond the wetland. He advised that the property owner had the wetland delineated earlier this year and a portion of the drainage and utility easement had been vacated by the City Council. He advised that a similar permit was granted for the neighboring parcel to construct a pool the previous year. He reviewed the variance criteria and explained how the request meets each of those criteria. He explained that the City Code is silent in regard to swimming pools and therefore staff treats pools as an accessory structure. He stated that staff recommends that the Commission recommend approval of the request subject to the conditions listed in the staff report.

Commissioner Stephenson confirmed that this request would not interfere with hardcover requirements. He also confirmed that the pool should not interfere with the drainage and utility easement.

Chair Erickson opened the public hearing at 6:44 p.m.

A neighbor stated that she did not oppose to the request but questioned if the three pools in the neighborhood would impact the wetland.

Commissioner Adams explained that a pool would not necessarily drain into the wetland as most pools are pumped out.

Mayor Hultmann provided an example of a situation in which drainage was directed to the storm sewer.

The Commission discussed a possible additional condition regarding the drainage of the pool.

City Planning Consultant/Interim Zoning Administrator Lewis explained that the variance is regarding the setback and not the pool itself.

Chair Erickson noted that this pool is proposed to be the same size as the pool that received the variance in 2008 and asked that the dimensions of the pool be included in the resolution of approval.

Commissioner Stephenson moved to close the public hearing at 6:55 p.m. Commissioner Adams seconded. Ayes: all.

Commissioner Adams moved to recommend that the City Council approve the resolution providing a variance to allow construction of a pool and retaining wall within the 50-foot wetland setback for Planning Case #2014-05. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Ayes: all.

The Commission further discussed the possibility of evaluating the regulation of pool drainage in the future.

OTHER BUSINESS

Council Liaison Report

Mayor Hultmann reported that the Council met earlier in the night to discuss the City budget. He also provided an update on the elections within the City, noting that he will not be running for reelection of Mayor.

Commission Member Business

Commissioner Adams stated that he will be filing for a seat on the Council in the upcoming election.

Staff Business

City Administrator Weske had nothing further to report.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Adams moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 p.m. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Ayes: all.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Weske
City Administrator