

**Saint Paul Planning Commission
City Hall Conference Center
15 Kellogg Boulevard West**

Minutes January 24, 2020

A meeting of the Planning Commission of the City of Saint Paul was held Friday, January 24, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. in the Conference Center of City Hall.

Commissioners Present: Mmes. DeJoy, Grill, Mouacheupao, Reveal, Underwood; and Messrs. Baker, Edgerton, Lindeke, Ochs, Perryman, Rangel Morales, Risberg, and Vang.

Commissioners Absent: Mmes. *Anderson, *Lee, and Messrs. *Hood, *Khaled, *Oliver, and *Rodriguez.
*Excused

Also Present: Luis Pereira, Planning Director; Tia Anderson, Department of Safety and Inspections, Bill Dermody, Anton Jerve, Michael Wade, and Laura Eckert, Department of Planning and Economic Development staff.

I. Approval of minutes December 6, 2019.

Chair Reveal announced that the minutes are not available at this time. However, they will be ready for approval at the next Planning Commission meeting.

II. Chair's Announcements

Chair Reveal had no announcements.

Report of Nominating Committee and Election of Officers

Chair Reveal offered the following slate of officers: Luis Rangel Morales for Chair, Cedrick Baker for First Vice-Chair, Lue Vang for Second Vice Chair, and Kristine Grill for Secretary.

Chair Reveal called for nominations from the floor. There were none.

MOTION: *Chair Reveal moved to close nominations and approve a unanimous ballot for Commissioners Rangel Morales, Baker, Vang, and Grill as slate. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.*

III. Planning Director's Announcements

Luis Pereira, Planning Director announced that the City and the Commission has talked about moving to paperless boards and commissions. The Heritage Preservation Commission will be taking the lead on that. They are a smaller commission there are 13 members when full, they have moved partially in that direction by discontinuing paper packets sent in the mail in advance

of the meetings. They are receiving paper packets at the meetings, however once we have an alternative for them at the meetings, most likely a tablet to use to look at the email packet sent in advance along with any other additional electronic items that have come through since the link for the meeting was sent out. In anticipation, we'd also like to move the Planning Commission in that direction and the Board of Zoning Appeals.

IV. Zoning Committee

SITE PLAN REVIEW – List of current applications. (*Tia Anderson, 651/266-9086*)

One item to come before the Site Plan Review Committee on Tuesday, January 28, 2020:

- Frost Lake Elementary – Building addition at 1505 Hoyt Avenue East. Jill bills, U+B Architecture & Design, Inc. SPR #20-005638

NEW BUSINESS

#19-111-186 863 Watson Avenue – Reestablishment of nonconforming use of a house as a duplex. 863 Watson Avenue, NW corner at Victoria. (*Anton Jerve, 651/266-6567*)

MOTION: *Commissioner Edgerton moved the Zoning Committee's recommendation to approve the re-establishment of legal nonconforming use subject to an additional condition. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.*

#19-106-417 Luther Seminary South Campus Improvements – Appeal of approval by the zoning administrator of a site plan for campus improvements including expansion of a parking lot at 1465 Branston Street. 1490 Fulham Street and 2375 Como Avenue. (*Tia Anderson, 651/266-9086*)

Commissioner Risberg asked why Commissioner Rangel Morales voted against this.

Chair Rangel Morales said that the neighbors and the applicant could have reached some resolution in which the neighbors would be satisfied with the parking lot, that included since its only 19 parking spaces making it specifically for employees or for students. The concern is that the center is used for a variety of different events allowing guests. They think that there is going to be a lot more traffic coming up and down the road. Characterizing the park, it's an island between two streets, so in order for kids to be able to use the park, they have to cross both sides of the streets, one side of the street at least. We recently had the application of the coffee shop in which we made it a condition that if it was interfering with traffic, they would have to take remedial matters to mitigate any congestion occurred because of the drive-through of the coffee shop. He does not see why this would not be any different. To just requires some form of acknowledgement by the applicant that if there is a problem, they're going to be the ones to take accountability and ownership to fix it instead of putting it on the neighbors.

Commissioner Baker asked if there was any discussion about moving forward with a condition added to the staff's recommendation.

Chair Rangel Morales said yes there was discussion and he had asked the applicant point blank if they would be willing to make it permit parking only employee parking. And he received a very long political answer from Luther, which he got the impression that the answer was no.

Commissioner Lindeke pointed out another thing that was not mentioned in the report from Commissioner Edgerton is that disability access is a factor of it. And this isn't a conditional use permit application, so it is a little different in that it's a site plan review. His reading of the traffic impacts they are very small in the grand scheme of what we look at in Saint Paul in general. This is a street with very low traffic probably one of the lowest traffic streets in Saint Paul, so if it goes up a little, it's not a dramatic change. He doesn't think that it registered the same kind of impacts as many of the other cases that they might see, where city dollars and attention are much more needed than they are here.

Commissioner Grill said that she spent the majority of the Zoning Committee meeting trying to find somewhere in here that she could find a basis for supporting the neighbors in this particular case. Because when looking at it it's a well-loved area the neighbors put a lot of time and effort into it. But there was nothing she could find in the staff report there were not errors, everything that they did fit exactly with what we would expect to see.

Commissioner Reveal said that the main thing for her was that they had a conditional use permit on the same plan it included the parking lot at the time, and we did not hear these objections at that time. If they had they likely would have put a condition on the conditional use permit, but this was fully consistent with the conditional permit that we approved. She did not see great justification. Also, not mentioned in the report that the Public Works and staff and DSI people who reviewed this did not find that a parking study or letter or comment was necessary, because of the low traffic pattern.

Commissioner Vang said that there are 188 parking spaces on the south campus. So, do we know if those 188 parking spaces have been utilized?

Commissioner Edgerton said they don't have any specific data on parking, he thinks there will be a traffic study as part of the north campus but there is nothing now. The Luther Seminary stated that as part of this consolidation, they were losing 100 spots to the north and that is part of the reason for needing parking to the south campus. There is nothing that indicates how full those lots are typically or how much traffic they generate.

Commissioner Baker asked what is the process if there is a traffic study? Moving forward with this site, what's the timeline and what does that process look like?

Tia Anderson, Department of Safety and Inspections, coordinates site plan review. A traffic study would consist of Luther Seminary hiring a firm with licensed traffic engineers to do a traffic study. Those can take a matter of weeks or possibly months as well as thousands of dollars to complete. In addition to traffic study which would be more focused on intersections and traffic patterns and those types of things. They would be looking at things that they would include as part of a Travel Demand Management Plan, which would then expand that study to also include the scope of looking at other ways to decrease single passenger vehicle trips to and from the campus and other ways to expand the modes of transportation to and from the campus. With the expanded parking area on Branson Street, the campus would still be within the minimum and

maximum off-street parking requirement and campuses are required on an annual basis to file with the city their off-street parking calculations.

Commissioner Baker said what he is hearing is that Luther Seminary is planning to move forward with that setting.

Ms. Anderson said no, that study was not required nor requested by Public Works staff.

Commissioner Reveal said that the North campus will likely have more coming through here on a master plan, which will require a traffic study. But that is not going to be related to this part of the campus, and staff finding was that there was not sufficient reason for that investment and expense given the small number of vehicles and traffic involved here.

Commissioner Lindeke inquired about the disability parking in this case, what that is.

Ms. Anderson said that Luther Seminary has accessible parking within their campus, this particular parking area as it exists today does not include accessible parking. With the replacement of the surface parking and the new proposed 19 space parking lot there would be two accessible spaces and an accessible path from the street and from the parking lot into the campus that does not exist today.

MOTION: Commissioner Edgerton moved the Zoning Committee's recommendation that the appeal of approval by the zoning administrator of a site plan for campus improvements including expansion of a parking lot at 1465 Branston Street at 1490 Fulham Street and 2375 Como Avenue (parking lot at 1465 Branston Street), is denied. The motion carried 12-1 (Ochs) on a voice vote.

~~#19-103-751 Taco Bell – WITHDRAWN BY APPLICANT Conditional use permit for drive thru sales as part of reconstruction of a fast food restaurant, with modification of the required separation for a drive thru lane from residential property (60' required, 24' proposed). 565 Snelling Avenue N, SW corner at Edmund Avenue. (Josh Williams, 651/266-6659)~~

Commissioner Edgerton announced the items on the agenda at the next Zoning Committee meeting on Thursday, January 30, 2020.

V. **Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Committee**

Amendment to the West Side Community Plan-Equitable Development Scorecard – Recommendation to amend community plan and forward the amendment to the Mayor and City Council. (Michael Wade, 651/266-8703)

Commissioner Baker said he is excited about the conversation regarding potential changes to the scorecard. He thinks that the work WSCO is doing with the scorecard is a model for other communities.

MOTION: Commissioner Mouacheupao moved to approve the resolution to amend the community plan and forward to the Mayor and City Council for adoption. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Commercial Development District for 160 South Wabasha Street – Review and recommendation regarding proposed commercial development district at 160 South Wabasha Street. (*Michael Wade, 651/266-8703*)

Commissioner Lindeke is curious about the words specifically liquor license limits and the history of that. Did Committee discuss why we have those, where they came from, and if they're a good idea.

Commissioner Mouacheupao said yes, they did.

Commissioner Lindeke wanted to know if this was the right way to address those limits. With these one offs sort of here let's do this and you can serve beer here. He was opposed to rethinking the big picture.

Luis Pereira, Planning Director, said that they've had some conversations at committee and among staff team including Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI). He raised the question about the role of the Planning Commission in reviewing commercial development districts. In terms of is there a value in terms of looking at conformity with the Comprehensive Plan and district plans. We've had an up tick on these reviews recently, he's not sure why. They've come to the conclusion that these new and expanded commercial development districts are not in conflict with the Comprehensive Plan or district plan. At committee this came up, in his opinion the question about does it really make sense if the fundamental issue at play is the liquor license that is in question. DSI made a point that expansion of bars or restaurants with expanded liquor service have a land use impact that is a planning issue. Looking at the code, the only part of the whole process that the commission is involved is this review, its not in the Zoning Code, it's in a different part of the city code. It raises the question about if ultimately the City Council is approving these, they're a City oversight of these districts. And that's the conversation he has had, there is some other movement going on with DSI in terms of they are pursuing some State law changes that might make it a little less of a parcel-by-parcel approach and more of a district approach. As the name implies, that's still evolving.

Commissioner Grill said that if there was a fundamental change to how we do licensing that it would require a charter change. There is a lot of high-level steps, ultimately what we all would like to get at is that this is easier for businesses to operate in the City. And to do that making this not the process that we do, is quite involved and elaborate. In the last 5 or 10 years they did update it to make the process easier, but it didn't go all the way, and this is the method that people have found to work within that system. She brings this up at every meeting and people are getting annoyed with hearing her talk about this particular issue.

MOTION: Commissioner Mouacheupao moved on behalf of the Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Committee to approve the resolution for the proposed commercial development district at 160 South Wabasha Street. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

Commercial Development District at 974 – 7th Street West – Recommend proposed commercial development district at 974 7th Street West. (*Anton Jerve, 651/266-6567*)

MOTION: *Commissioner Mouacheupao moved on behalf of the Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Committee to approve the resolution for the proposed commercial development district at 974 7th Street West. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.*

Expanding Commercial Development District at 1 Leech Street So. to include 200 Grand Avenue
- Recommendation regarding expanding commercial development district at 1 Leech St. So. to include 200 Grand Avenue. (Anton Jerve, 651/266-6567)

MOTION: *Commissioner Mouacheupao moved on behalf of the Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Committee to approve the resolution expanding the proposed commercial development district at 1 Leech Street South including 200 Grand Avenue. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.*

Religious Accessory Uses Zoning Study – Recommend initiation. (Bill Dermody, 651/266-6617)

Commissioner Baker said that this item has received a lot of attention and the expedition of this item moving forward as a study are, we thinking that the study will be complete within an estimated timeframe?

Chair Rangel Morales said that he believes that they have 2 years to complete the study.

Commissioner Reveal said in doing the study she hopes that they would look at the issues of what the obligations are of any party to an accessory use and the religious institution on community outreach and neighborhood involvement. That was the problem at Listening House that the groundwork was not laid with the community for that use, in that particular place. And the obligation was on both parties, and neither had done it adequately. She hopes they'll look at that part of it too, consider some guidance to developers and religious institutions.

Chair Rangel Morales thinks that this all could have been avoided if the zoning administrator had properly sent notice of it before investment were made on the property. And then the City's hands were tied with a certain procedure that had to be followed. The review is going to be looking at various aspects of how to incorporate and be more mindful.

MOTION: *Commissioner Mouacheupao moved on behalf of the Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Committee's recommendation to approve the resolution initiating a zoning study. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.*

Commissioner Mouacheupao announced that she is stepping down as chair of the Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Committee (CNPC). She will continue on the Planning Commission but not as chair of the CNPC. However, Commissioner Grill has agreed to step in as chair of the CNPC.

VI. Transportation Committee

Commissioner Lindeke announced that they did not meet last Monday, but they did hang out, a couple of members at Bull Dog. However, they are meeting on Monday, January 27, 2020 on an official manner to hear from the City about regional solicitation on applications. Which are federal transportation dollars that get funneled through the Met Council that go to cities in the

seven-county metro area in a competitive manner and the City applies for them. They will hear from the City what they are asking the money for.

Also, they will hear from Peter Musty about the Capital Area Architectural Planning Board 2040 Comprehensive Plan. Their territory is around the State Capital all the way to Marion, Capital Heights across I94 including some of the space downtown which we do not have planning control over that area except insight planning things.

Luis Pereira, Planning Director, added that the lower part of Rice Street is in their CAAPB jurisdiction. However, we do have some purview over elements in site plan review as well as building permits. And the City has to work with the CAAPB on approvals on what happens to properties in that area.

Commissioner Lindeke said that Mr. Musty will also be talking about the Sears site and the general Capital Area.

VII. Communications Committee

2019 Planning Commission Annual Report

Commissioner Underwood announced that at their places is a copy of the 2019 annual report. Commissioner Underwood recognizes the team including an intern who really ran with this and gave it some color. She is pleased that some of the advancements to this report that they made as a body in the last few years are reflected in the report particularly on the back page showing the down and dirty work particularly of the Zoning Committee. Where not everything is Ford sites, but it's the day-to-day zoning and land use needs. It's also interesting that the number of zoning cases went down 35% so what does that say about what's going on in the city. She is glad that the report raises questions. 2019 was a huge year when looking at it in this annual report.

Luis Pereira, Planning Director, highlighted that the work of the Snelling-Midway development a collaborate effort with the Saint Paul Police, Metro Transit, Public Works Department, MnDOT and the Planning Team, particularly Josh Williams to work on the Transportation Management plan. Which was many hours an evolving process as we're entering another season of soccer at Allianz Field which it was largely recognized as being effective in managing people attending. Even though it wasn't something formally that the Planning Commission had a chance to really weigh in on deeply, at the Transportation Committee. Also, the transportation planning projects, there was an amendment to the Gold Line Station Area plan, and a lot of the work happening throughout the year that is not necessarily coming to the Planning Commission.

Mr. Pereira thanked the Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning Committee for their intensive work for going through all the 2040 Comprehensive Plan public comments after the January public hearing and staff. There were less items on the 2019 Annual Report, but things were a big effort.

Commissioner Reveal commented that this is the best annual report she has seen in 9 years. She suggests that when sending out and getting the communications done for new members that this report go with it. So that everyone that gets this solicitation to see if they are interested in being on the Commission can see what it does.

Typically, there is a cover letter from the chair that is prepared, and we do send it out via the early notification system list that the City has to which people can subscribe to receive notices. We also send out a paper mailing to select people who may not subscribe to that such as elected officials to make sure that they are aware of the planning activities of the City and the Planning Commission. That cover letter will follow soon.

Planning Director's Report on achievements during 2019 and 2020 Projects

Luis Pereira, Planning Director, discussed the 6-page new version of what they did in 2019, using the same categories as the 2019 work program. Project name, a milestone column, and a phase column because much of the work done is more than one year, reflecting that they hit a milestone like the Snelling-Midway, and Transportation Management Plan. Phase represents where we are in the process if there is still ongoing work, if there's official review of the Planning Commission or City Council and Met Council, that's happened, or will happen. Trying to visually show what some of the key milestones were, adoption of the Ford Site Master Plan Amendments, and Design Standards. Some of the environmental review work that staff has done which does not come before the Planning Commission. Mr. Pereira said on the last page at the bottom is a list of things that were on the work program and there was some work on them, but they were not initiated, or substantial work happened, example implementing the 2040 Comp Plan which we're still working through some of the comments from the Met Council but that is on this year's work plan. He highlighted on some of the other 2019 work program list items that were not initiated as well.

Another sheet handed out was the 2020 Planning Teams work program which are things they'd like to get to but because of staff capacity they took a harder look at it and wanted to take a realistic take on it. Comparing it to last year the zoning cases are moved up and environmental review that's fundamental mandatory work they have to do, often they'll crowd out other things that don't have those sensitive timelines. Key transportation projects last year neighborhood and site development planning, a lot of the big redevelopment sites Ford site, Hillcrest, Snelling/Midway, Luther Seminary, and potentially Sears. Less on the district planning side, but still on a support role on district plans. And other essential work a list that is short but trying to be realistic with what they can do.

Commissioner Mouacheupao made a suggestion to have the document in a similar format that also shows where and what they can look forward to, in terms of the work plan items. Having it the same way the milestone and phase so they can see where they're at and where they're going.

Chair Rangel Morales said that goes towards the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan. How do they hold themselves accountable for what they're doing?

Commissioner Grill said that Planning 101 and 102 are listed as items but she has noticed particularly in Comprehensive and Neighborhood Committee that they're getting a lot of very detailed items. Commissioner Vang was debating in great detail at the last meeting. And as the year goes on if there are opportunities for education for the Commission, if they're already producing content for the public and they have a light meeting to consider that as an opportunity touch on some of the technical topics that they seem to be getting more and more at committee.

Chair Rangel Morales said they recently had a presentation on the difference between RM and T, and Bill Dermody, PED staff did a great job of explaining it, that was the first time he understood

it and the different types of zoning. If there are questions like that or there's a presentation about something you like to learn more about whether its Floor Area Ratio or the difference between zoning districts, he's sure that staff could give a presentation on it.

VIII. Task Force/Liaison Reports

Commissioner DeJoy announced that the Hillcrest Redevelopment Community Advisory Committee continues to meet monthly. They met this week on Tuesday and in December they talked about what activities they would do to engage the community and the dialogue also planning for the first public meeting and they talked about city policies, and technical priorities. There is a lot of apprehension about things like traffic, and industrial uses in the middle of a residential neighborhood that was a golf course. Those conversations and concerns continue. Their first meeting that is open to the public on specifically to engage community dialogue is February 12th at the Heights Community School at 5:30 p.m. She will send out an email with the details.

Chair Rangel Morales asked if they know that any of the outreach that was done is any different then what has traditionally been done like for the Ford site.

Luis Pereira, Planning Director, said that has been the subject of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings recently and one of the things that they are doing a little differently with this process is getting the CAC more involved in helping with the plan for community engagement and outreach. There were thoughtful conversations at this week and the previous week's meeting there is an engagement consultant on community engagement, and they have come up with a list of community events and things that are happening on the East Side. One comment was that these are not close enough to the site itself and can they get some events closer. There is culturally specific engagement happening in terms of different communities on the East Side, different languages, that's the capacity that was emphasized in the RFP, initially for the master plan consultant. Looking to see how these open houses go. Also, we have two Ward 6 vacancies so this would be a good chance for us to tell people about this opportunity for serving on the Planning Commission if interested in planning issues, to get some face to face conversations happening.

Commissioner Reveal said that the Hillcrest is entirely different than the West Side Flats but one of the lessons learned is that notifications like post cards and other things really did not penetrate the businesses. Because often the owner is not here (person on record) and it really causes some serious problems.

Mr. Pereira said recognizing that, even though we have an engagement consultant, the City, as part of the scope the funds available for this consultant, they agreed to take on some of the mailing of those postcard notifications. It's going to cost a little more but part of it is that they can target renters' households not just property owners, it's a list that United States Postal Serve has which is better than us using our rental property county list.

Commissioner DeJoy added that they are finding its more challenging to do community engagement in the winter and piggyback on other events that might be happening.

Chair Rangel Morales said at one of the previous Planning Commission meetings Mr. Noel Nix from the Mayor's Office gave a presentation about community engagement and Chair Rangel

Morales received it as a community engagement 101 presentation. He was curious if the Mayor's Office was involved in implementing those type of theories into how this outreach is going.

Mr. Pereira said they were involved in reviewing our recommendations on Community Advisory Committee members. One of the things the Mayor's Office has been good about is asking city departments, what are all the big events that are happening as far as they know right now on the calendar and tell us what they are. And are there things that you think the Mayor may want to speak on or attend. To emphasize the community importance of participating in these processes. There are people who is show up to see the Mayor, they may not show up he is not there. And getting more proactive so they can plan it into their schedule. He will be at one or more of these open houses that happen this year.

IX. Old Business

Commissioner Edgerton said that there are three commissioners terming out and one other stepping down Commissioner Khaled. So, what is the plan, schedule or timeframe for new commissioners and a replacement.

Mr. Pereira said they are welcome to stay on until they get replacements. The plan is communications, he has been working a lot with the communications people to get messaging that works for recruitment. It has been a multi-month process. He does not have specific dates on that now, but they need to talk to people to get applying and he is looking for the help of the existing commission not just the Communications Committee but others to help once they get the recruitment messaging package available. Which means sharing social media post with friends.

Commissioner Edgerton said it sounds like there will be six vacancies, so if an email could be sent out to all of us a reminder, and any criteria be sure to include that so they can think accordingly.

Chair Rangel Morales noted that in Steering Committee this morning, they discussed the possibility of having a smaller commission. So that is something that will be explored as well. Commissioner Reveal expressed in late December whether this commission is too big, but there is another viewpoint and having it this big allows us to have a lot of viewpoints, suggestions, and comments on various issues. But that is just in discussion at this moment, more discussion will happen in the Steering Committee and anything that would occur would be a full vote from the Planning Commission if not more things that need to be done.

Commissioner Reveal added that that must happen in conjunction with the District Councils discussion. Because the only way it would make any sense is for that district council engagement and responsibility etcetera to be more robust than it has been and over the time, she has been on the commission it has gotten less. She would never decouple those two things.

Chair Rangel Morales said that would also be for people to consider. For him some of the concern has been who is in the district councils and how ingrain people who have been in the district council have been there. And whether that would be an appropriate method to supplement. Maybe filling up spots that are currently open, that is certainly a concern he has. Sometimes we hear presentations about how district councils voted for this or that, but the district council has people who have been on there for 30 years or more.

Commissioner Grill said that she was surprised at the size of the Planning Commission too. She has been drafting a memo on this and while doing so she did some research on other Planning Commissions around the country. There is only one that she could find that was bigger than this one and that was in Chicago. All the others are 7-10 members, so this commission is large. She is looking forward to the discussion.

Commissioner Perryman said he knows the budget is small, but \$500.00 and a web cam to get this broadcast all over to make it easier if the numbers do get smaller. Having a large commission brings more opportunities, he is on a district council and he is stepping down because of employment changes. As far as sharing things and looking for people would this justify getting a Saint Paul government Facebook posting or the hiring panel has a sign-up interest form that's a lot easier.

Mr. Pereira said that there will be multiply formats of this. Part of the battle was making the case that we should do this, there was this critique that its not going to reach the right people and its not just that its that plus personal engagement one-on-one. Including the district councils and going beyond district council system to ask groups, that can be his role, staff's role and also the commissioner's role its appropriate. You needed information from us, and we are sharing that consistently and appropriately. What you're eluding to is something different than a post something more general where people can submit their name, we could reach out to them if they ask for more information.

Commissioner Perryman said that he still has not seen an official government posting requesting people apply for the Planning Commission. Its always been we know people; we find people and reach out in emails or something. With our own social capital, somebody trust Commissioner Baker and realizes this is a great opportunity and share with their friends using that social capital to reach those communities, it is really strong.

Commissioner Underwood as Nominations-Communications Committee chair she wants to recognize Mr. Pereira who has been really trying hard and it has been a frustrating struggle to be able to promote the openings as we continue to have a greater need. She really appreciates the work he has been doing and creativity. She did appointments for the last administration and can speak firsthand at how painful it is and hard. There are 30+ boards and commissions this one has a direct impact that others do not. This commission is approved by the Mayor and the City Council in a way that others are but aren't, the role of the Mayor's office is very important. There has been a lot of frustration in it and it is concerning.

Commissioner Edgerton going back to the commission size issue, he thinks that they are kind of big but he is okay with that for few reasons: 1) We're trying to be very inclusive and diverse and if we come down to seven and we're talking to this and that community at some point how do you include all those communities if we're down to seven people and some are going to be excluded. He worries that they will lose the inclusive and diverse wealth of ideas. 2) We have a Transportation Committee, Comprehensive and Neighborhood Committee, and Zoning Committee, there are various task forces, if there are only seven people, are we going to ask every commissioner to be on every committee. So, if we limit it to fewer people you're also going to be asking more of them.

Chair Rangel Morales said that was discussed and the discussion came as to whether this is an opportunity to discuss reformatting the commission given the number of vacancies. It would

mean restructure the committees and the role that they serve as well as the commitment commissioners would have to make to those committees and make sure we're moving the agenda along.

Commissioner Grill said that she would never suggest seven, she thinks 14 or something in the lines of how many normally show up. She has been keeping notes of how many have been showing up and it seems 14 or 15 for the Planning Commission and 5 or 6 range for the committees, but this is a longer discussion.

Commissioner Lindeke said that the Transportation Committee is unique, there are members who are not commission members and that was an idea that he had. Could we do more inclusive outreach through a committee structure similar to that for other committees. It works well for Transportation Committee.

Chair Rangel Morales said that this is the beginning discussion of a long discussion that they will have.

X. New Business

None.

XI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

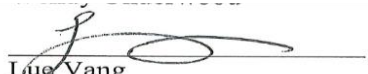
Recorded by:
Laura Eckert, Planning Commission Interim Secretary
and Prepared by:
Sonja Butler, Planning Commission Secretary
Planning and Economic Development Department,
City of Saint Paul

Respectfully submitted,

Approved April 3, 2020
(Date)



Luis Pereira
Planning Director



Lue Vang
Secretary of the Planning Commission