

**City of Gem Lake  
Planning Commission Meeting – March 12, 2024  
Meeting Minutes**

Planning Commission Chair Joshua Patrick called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Commission Members Art Pratt, Don Cummings were present. Not present were Derek Wippich and Stephanie Farrell. Also present: City Planner Evan Monson, Apprentice City Planner CJ Sycks, City Attorney Stand-in Martin Norder, and Acting City Clerk Melissa Lawrence.

**March 12, 2024**

A motion was made by Commissioner Pratt to accept the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Cummings. Voice vote taken, all voted yes, motion carried, agenda accepted.

**Minutes**

A motion was made by Commissioner Pratt to approve the February 13, 2024, Planning Commission Meeting minutes, seconded by Commissioner Cummings. Voice vote taken, all voted yes, motion carried, minutes are approved.

**Public Hearings**

None

**Old Business**

**Ordinance No. 45 Garbage and Refuse Discussion**

City Planner Evan Monson shared with the Commission that over the last few meetings, the Planning Commission has discussed updates to the garbage and refuse ordinance (ordinance 45). The commissioners reviewed different examples of garbage ordinances from nearby communities, and reviewed results of a survey that was sent out by city staff last fall to residents on their garbage hauling service. A redlined draft ordinance was submitted for review by the commissioners, with changes proposed to address comments and suggestions made at previous meetings. Also included was a clean draft of the proposed ordinance. The ordinance is now more streamlined and brought up to date. It also leaves room for future changes if the City decides to contract out a garbage hauler.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pratt to forward the updated ordinance no. 45 to the City Council for approval, seconded by Commission Chair Patrick. Voice vote taken, all voted yes, motion carried.

**Gem Lake Tree Policy Discussion**

City Attorney Kevin Beck put together a FAQ's sheet with a couple scenarios regarding trees on public property. These FAQ's will be put online for residents. The Commission reviewed the suggested FAQ's and believed they would be a great addition to the website.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cummings to forward FAQ's sheet to the City Council for approval, seconded by Commissioner Pratt. Voice vote taken, all voted yes, motion carried.

**Beekeeping Discussion**

Apprentice City Planner CJ Sycks presented the Commission with a draft revision of Ordinance No. 142 Agricultural and Wild Animals, to include information on beekeeping regulations. The Minnesota Hobby Beekeepers Association has prepared a model ordinance for beekeeping. The proposed additions are derived from this model ordinance, as well as the beekeeping ordinances adopted by St. Paul Park, Shakopee, and White Bear Lake. A new section was added to Ordinance No. 142 to include information on permitted operations, permitting and inspections, definitions, standards of practice and right of entry for inspections. The Planning Commission should review draft Ordinance No. 142. Any further changes should be recommended to staff. If there are no edits, a recommendation may be made to the City Council for their review. The Commission reviewed the new suggested section and requested a slight edit to one of the definitions and to add language that would prohibit the sale of items in the Gateway District. The edits will be made and then recommended to the Council.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cummings to forward the suggested beekeeping language with the completed suggested edits to Ordinance No. 142 to the City Council for approval, seconded by Commission Chair Pratt. Voice vote taken, all voted yes, motion carried.

**New Business**

None

**Open Items for Commission Members to Bring Up**

Commissioner Cummings shared with the Commission that there is discussion of overnight camping going on in the world and whether it is lawful to keep someone from doing it on public land. This is not a pressing issue, but Commissioner Cummings wanted to bring it to the attention of the Commission.

**Future Meetings**

City Council Meeting, Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at Heritage Hall, and Planning Commission Meeting, Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at Heritage Hall.

**Attendance Inquiry**

Commissioner Chair Patrick surveyed the Commission to see if any of the members would have any issues attending the April 9, 2024 meeting. At this time those in attendance will all be at the next meeting.

**Adjournment**

Being there no further business, following a motion from Commissioner Pratt, seconded by Commissioner Cummings, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted, Melissa Lawrence*