

The Easton Planning Commission met on Wednesday, March 2 2016, at 6:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers, City Hall Council Chambers, 123 S. 3rd Street, Easton, PA 18042. Planning Commissioners Charles Elliott, Bonnie Winfield, Robert Sun, William Carr, Mia Hatzis and Ron Shipman were in attendance. The following Planning Bureau staff members were present: Chief Planner Carl Manges and Planning Director Tina Roseberry, City Solicitor- Joel Scheer, Ron Shipman arrived at 6:36

Mr. Charles Elliott called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes Mr. Charles Elliott asked to approve the minutes of February 3, 2016 as presented. Robert Sun moved and William Carr seconded. Charles Elliot abstained because he was not at the meeting. The minutes were approved as presented.

Privilege of the Floor. None

Paxinosa School Land Development Carl Manges read the proposal. The applicant, Easton Area School District, proposed an 80-spaces parking lot behind the Paxinosa Elementary School. The Accessory Parking Area is a permitted use in the West Ward. A black coated chain link fence, trees and lights were discussed. The plan includes removing two modular trailers. Staff recommends approval. Charles Elliot asked if the applicant had anything to add. Randy Galiotto said this is the 3rd time he addressed the committee since September. Nicole Caffrey from Maser Consulting was present to go over light spillage. Mrs. Caffrey indicated that no light spillage would go into neighboring properties.

Charles Elliott opened the matter to public comment. Amanda Williams, who resides at 1131 Spring Garden Street, spoke not in favor of an 80-space parking lot and is an advocate for preserving green space in the West Ward. She said that she had 106 signatures and an additional 70 signatures on-line of people that support her and that the teachers already have an 80 plus space parking area that is not being used to capacity. Frank Pintabone, who resides at 1109 Berwick Street, and is the President of the School Board, spoke in favor of the new parking lot for convenience, safety and security of the teachers. Bryce Williams, who resides at 1131 Spring Garden Street, spoke also not in favor of an additional parking lot, and in favor of maintaining green space and athletic fields for younger children. Tammy Hetzel, who resides at 14 Northgate Blvd., a teacher at Paxinosa, spoke in favor of the parking lot. Mia Hatzis asked how many teachers and staff are at school on a daily basis. Randy Galiotto said there were 80. Mia Hatzis asked if anyone made the attempt to improve the existing lot. Mr. Pintabone said yes. There was a discussion on using the existing field, which is not open to the public. The district doesn't have the money in the budget to open up the Stadium to the community. They would like to make it turf so it can be used in the future. It is estimated the Stadium improvements would cost between 13-15 million dollars. Ron Shipman made a motion to approve the staff recommendation, with William Carr seconding. All were in favor.

30-56 N 4th Street Land Development- Subdividing existing parcel to create 2 lots, and the Development of a 3 –story addition for the City's new police station. The applicant, 30 North Fourth LP, proposes to subdivide an existing lot into two parcels at 30 – 56 N 4th Street. Lot #1 proposes the development of a 3-story addition, approximately 5,000 sq ft per floor, which will house the City's new police station. This addition will be added on to the portion of the existing building that is remaining on lot #1. A new garage for police personnel vehicles and an accessory parking area with 41 spaces are being proposed on lot #1. Total square footage for the new police station building will be 29, 765. The City of Easton will be owner of lot #1 once approvals are received. Lot #2 will contain the existing building that was formerly operated by the Express Times, and the ownership will be maintained by the 30 North Fourth LP. The owner lot #2 has indicated the use for the existing building is yet to be determined. Staff advocated for approval with conditions. John Tressler with Boucher and James, Inc. was present to answer any questions. Mayor Panto went over use of floors, explaining how each would be used. A fitness center, and shooting range were discussed as being part of the proposal. Mr. Carr asked is there would be access to Pine Street. Mayor Panto said yes. Robert Sun asked questions about the shooting range. Do plans show it under ground and in basement? Mayor Panto replied that the shooting range is located in the basement, and it is a turnkey shooting range, and will make sure that everything that is on the plans, is in the building. The shooting range is a auxiliary permitted use for city. It has a fully designed weapon cleaning room.

Charles Elliott asked about variances. Mr. Manges responded that variances were required for parking, no commercial use on the first floor, and landscaping requirements. Charles Elliot asked if anyone from the public had any questions. There were none. Robert Sun moved to adopt the resolution as proposed, and Ron Shipman seconded. All were in favor.

Comprehensive Plan Update – Tina Rosenberry said both a public hearing and a public meeting took place in February for public comments. Summary: Biking type of comments as well as safety and accessibility. Talked about changing exceptions. Meeting with City Council and how they will address comments in the plan. Staff will keep a running list of changes and concerns. Planning committee meeting with Council on February 22, 2016.

Discussion on Changing the April 6, 2016 EPC meeting. Carl and Tina will be away -move meeting to April 20th. Joel asked if we will have to advertise. Mr. Manges responded that it will be advertised. It was agreed to change the April meeting date.

EAC Update. Charles Elliott said the recycling rates and improving recycling issues was the general topic. Looking to find creative ways for residents to recycle, and to place part of onus on the landlords. Ron Shipman asked if it was a problem? The Recycle Bank has low numbers. Would have to ask Dave Hopkins on how they come up with the numbers. The EAC suggested a program to raise awareness. Mia Hatzis suggested fines for not recycling.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.