

REPORT OF CITY PLAN COMMISSION  
Monday, January 4, 2010 – 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Acting Chm. Ald. Jerry Moore; Tony Patton; Jami Gebert; Shari Laskowski; Anna Haines; and Daryl (Bo) Dedeker (Chm. Mayor Halverson excused)

ALSO

PRESENT: Comm. Dev. Dir. Mike Morrissey; C/T John Schlice; Ald. Stroik, Molski, Brooks, Wiza, and Slowinski; Tom Jakusz; Bob Woehr; Gene Kemmeter, Po. Co. Gazette

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2. Consideration and Possible Action on Conditional Use Request to Operate an Indoor Archery Range at 2124 Rice Street
3. Consideration and Possible Action on Sale of Land and/or Re-platting of Lot #43 in Whitetail Trail Subdivision
4. Consideration and Possible Action on New Zoning Application Form and Supporting Information Form for Managing Plan Commission Requests
5. Adjournment

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Acting-Chairman Jerry Moore called the meeting to order in the absence of Chm. Mayor Halverson.

1. Approval of the December 7, 2009 Plan Commission Minutes

**Tony Patton moved, seconded by Jami Gebert, to recommend approval of the December 7 Plan Commission minutes. Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried.**

2. Consideration and Possible Action on Conditional Use Request to Operate an Indoor Archery Range at 2124 Rice Street

Mike Morrissey provided background on previous conditional use permits for this property. He reviewed the drawings which illustrate the outlines of the archery range itself including dimensions and where it is located within the Players Lounge development. He has toured the facility and met with the manager. Staff is concerned with a use which mixes alcohol with archers and archery equipment. Because the archery range is self-contained, staff feels it minimizes endangering the public. If the conditional use is approved, the proposed improvements should be made to the archery range prior to anyone using the range.

Based on meetings with representatives from the police and fire departments, Morrissey recommends granting the conditional use request but include the seven conditions as indicated in his staff memo.

Tony Patton questioned when they wanted to be up and running, and if the other portion of the building doesn't meet that conditional use, does that close the archery range.

Mike Morrissey responded they have constructed virtually 99% of the archery range. If we combined the tavern with the archery range and either one was not approved, then both would be closed down. If the tavern was closed due to not meeting conditional use terms, the archery range could still be operated.

Jami Gebert noted the only place you can have alcohol is in the tavern area.

Mike Morrissey responded that is correct, unless there is specific special event that is approved by the Common Council.

**Tony Patton moved, seconded by Jami Gebert, to recommend approval of the request to operate an indoor archery range at 2141 Rice Street and include the seven conditions listed in the staff memo.**

Ald. Stroik noted as chairman of the Public Protection Committee, he has issues with the fact that we have alcohol on that site. The seven conditions make it more tolerable, but he feels there should be no uncased archery equipment outside of the enclosed archery zone. We need a very low tolerance if someone is caught in the bar with uncased archery equipment. Will we enforce this by posting signs on the doors that say no archery equipment in the tavern. He would like to see the seven conditions amended to include 1) no uncased archery equipment outside of the enclosed archery zone, and 2) signs posted on the doors that say no archery equipment in the tavern.

Bob Woehr, 727 Second St., stated there must be staff supervision of the archery range. He questioned the east entrance which is by the firing line. Is a building permit required for this modification? Is Common Council approval required for an individual to fire a rifle, bow and arrow, etc. within the city limits?

Tom Jakusz asked if they are going to be put at risk of keeping this game in town and available to everyone because some guy walked into the bar with a bow case in his possession. It is not a loaded gun. During the hunting season, it is common for guys to hunt and go to the bar with their equipment in their car. I think they can even walk into the bar with it in their case. This is a recreational opportunity. Wisconsin Rapids has two of these archery machines and they are open enough to be able to aim at someone in the bar. You can't go in the range and shoot without being supervised.

Anna Haines expressed concern with the placement of the second door.

Mike Wiza feels we need clarification before Monday on 1) checking into the building permit, 2) whether approval is needed for individuals to shoot within the city limits. He likes the idea of having the archer equipment cased until you are in the staging area. He is not in favor of not allowing an uncased bow anywhere on the property. Anyone can drive into that parking lot right now and pull out a bow or a gun

and that is perfectly legal. The Fire Dept. indicated that a second exit would contribute to safety. It is really very easy - a fire door only opens out and you cannot open it from the inside. Solves the problem.

Jami Gebert suggested amendments to the motion that 1) the second exit be a fire door that only opens from the inside with no handle on the outside, and 2) signage posted on the tavern door for not bringing archery equipment into the bar. She would like to see the archery shut down at 11:00 p.m.

Tom Jakusz responded the owner does not open until 4:00 p.m. Many of the people on archery leagues work until 11:00 p.m. and shoot their league scores until the bar closes. Their 11:00 p.m. after work is our 5:00 p.m.

Tony Patton noted there are many sports that use facility late nights or early mornings because of jobs or space needs.

Mike Morrissey noted the archery range is planned to be properly supervised. With regard to discharging a weapon, his recommendation in his memo states any approval is "contingent upon Common Council approval". Signage is a good idea. A second exit is a good suggestion with mechanics needing to be worked out and finalized. He will check on the building permit issue.

He indicated that staff is trying to gauge the public interest against intervening with business. He is concerned about mixing alcohol with weapons and these matters need to be accounted for.

Acting chairman Moore questioned if Tony Patton is accepting of any of the amendments suggested by Jami Gebert.

Tony Patton responded he would like his motion to stand as it was.

Anna Haines stated she would like to make a friendly amendment regarding the second exit being a fire door only.

Mike Morrissey suggested improvements be completed prior to using the range.

Tony Patton and Jami Gebert accepted the friendly amendments.

**Tony Patton moved, seconded by Jami Gebert, to recommend approval of the conditional use request to operate an indoor archery range at 2124 Rice Street with the following conditions/restrictions: 1) no alcohol shall be consumed in or around the archery range, 2) no archery equipment (either cased or un-cased) shall be present in the bar area of Players Lounge at any time for any reason, 3) there shall be an entry point (the existing entry on the north side of the building) for use by ALL archers to enter and depart the archer range, 4) there shall be constructed an archery storage area (sufficient to meet demand) located inside the north entry on the backside of the archer range against the wall where all archery equipment**

**is to be stored prior to using the range, 5) there shall be no smoking at any time within the archery range, 6) there shall be emergency 'Exit' signs installed inside the archery range facility indicating location of entry/exit doors, 7) there shall be a second exit-only fire door constructed mid-point so that archery equipment can be taken from the storage area into and out of the archery range facility without equipment being moved past or mixing with any other recreational complex users, and 8) all improvements be completed prior to using the archery range.**

**Ayes, Patton, Gebert, Haines, Dedeker, and Moore; (Laskowski abstained) Nays none; Motion carried.**

3. Consideration and Possible Action on Sale of Land and/or Re-platting of Lot #43 in Whitetail Trail Subdivision

Mike Morrissey distributed copies of the plat and stated this is a city-owned lot. Comptroller-Treasurer Schlice has received an offer to purchase the lot, but it needs to be re-platted prior to sale because there is a small piece of the land in the NW corner of the lot that was earmarked for park land. We have worked with the Parks Dept. on this and Tom Schrader has no problem with the issue. This replatting is contingent upon DNR approval.

John Schlice noted they will be moving the water easement off the boundary line of the lot so that we won't have problems if city staff has to get on the site at a later date. DNR is aware of all restrictions.

**Tony Patton moved, seconded by Shari Laskowski, to recommend approval of the sale of land and re-platting of Lot #43 in Whitetail Trail Subdivision as presented. Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried.**

4. Consideration and Possible Action on New Zoning Application Form and Supporting Information Form for Managing Plan Commission Requests

Acting Chm. Moore noted he is very thankful for this to come through and hope that it gets used extensively.

Mike Morrissey reviewed the forms and noted one change is that applicants and/or petitioners appear themselves before the commission to present their own case. In addition, all requests with supporting documents (scaled drawings) must be submitted three weeks prior to the actual meeting.

**Jerry Moore moved, seconded by Bo Dedeker, to accept the new zoning application form and supporting information form for managing Plan Commission requests. Ayes all; Nays none; Motion carried.**

5. Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.