

BOARDMAN PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES - VIDEO CONFERENCING MEETING

September 15, 2021

Commission Chair Jacob Cain called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioners
in Attendance: Jacob Cain, Ragna TenEyck (in attendance, arrived at 7:02), Sam Irons,
Jennifer Leighton, Zach Barresse, Karla Jimenez, Ethan Salata (via Zoom)

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff: Barry Beyeler - Community Development Director, Karen Pettigrew - City
Manager, Jackie McCauley – Building Clerk, and Jenn Rollins – City Recorder
/ HR, Rick Stokoe – Chief of Police

Audience: Kimberly Lindsay

FLAG SALUTE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sam Irons made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2021 regular meeting as presented. Commissioner Barresse seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Irons – Yes, Leighton – Yes, Barresse – Yes, Jimenez – Yes, Salata – Yes, Cain – Yes, TenEyck (Absent, arrived at 7:02). The motion passed 6 – 0 with 1 absence.

The Planning Commission welcomed Ethan Salata to the meeting and congratulated him on his appointment to the commission.

OLD BUSINESS

None

Commission Chair Cain recessed the regular meeting at 7:03 p.m.
Commission Chair Cain opened the public appeal hearing at 7:03 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Public Hearing – Community Counseling Solutions Boardman Regional Crisis Center – Fence Height Variance Request

Commission Chair Cain announced the purpose of the public hearing was for a variance request for the construction of a fence exceeding height standards for tax lot 600 of Morrow County Tax Map 4N 25 09AD (361 NE Turner Ct.) for the Boardman Regional Crisis Center. This request will be processed using a Class C Variance, Type III Procedure in accordance with Boardman Development Code Chapter 4.1.500.

Commission Chair Cain asked if there were any abstentions – hearing none, he asked if there were any objections to the jurisdiction – again no objections, so Commission Chair Cain asked Barry Beyeler to read the Staff Report into Record.

Staff Report

Community Development Director Barry Beyeler read the Staff Report from September 14, 2021 – Subject: Community Counseling Solutions fence height Variance request into the record.

Proponent's Case

Kimberly Lindsay – Director of Community Counseling Solutions

Director Lindsay explained there is currently no facility in Central or Eastern Oregon that provides this level of care or type of care to children of any age. Director Lindsay stated that currently if a child is in need of sub-acute or acute services they must travel to the Portland area, creating a hardship for families and the children that need the services. Lindsay said she has spent the last 5 years looking for a location for this facility and the funding and supporters for the project and has worked with Pinnacle on the design concept for the facility. The demand and need for these services on the East side of the state is huge, and this facility will support children from 7-12 years of age.

Director Lindsay explained that when a child's fight or flight response is triggered, they can be creative in finding ways to escape the situation; for example, they can stack on each other "monkey style" to climb over the fence. In this case 3 or 4 kids stacked on each other will reach 12 feet and then they will lose stability and tumble to the ground, this example is highlighting the need for a fence that is at the height requested. The higher fence will provide not only security for the children inside the facility by preventing them from escaping the ground, but will also provide security from anyone on the outside who is trying to gain entry to the inside to take advantage of at risk, vulnerable children.

Questions

Ethan Salata asked if there will be anything on top of the fence like barbed wire? Director Lindsay replied that no, there would not be anything on the top of the fence because they don't want it to look or feel like a prison to the children.

Ethan Salata also asked if there will be gates in the fence or if it will be one hundred percent sealed. Director Lindsay replied that there will be one gate in the fence, but it will be secured.

Zack Barresse asked if there will be landscaping on the outside of the fence, and if so, how high would it be? Director Lindsay answered the landscaping will be placed away from the fence so it can't be used as a stepping stone, but it will be used to make the fence look less imposing and more attractive.

Jacob Cain asked if the fence will look like the example in the packet? Director Lindsay replied that while she didn't have the packet in front of her – she would like a neutral color for the fence in the style of the fence that was included in the packet.

Jacob Cain asked if the height of 12 feet was consistent with other facilities of this type. Director Lindsay said 12 feet is the lowest minimum height for this type of facility.

Chief of Police – City of Boardman – Richard Stokoe

Chief Stokoe asked to speak as a proponent for the case. The Chief supports Director Lindsay in this venture, and strongly believes we need this facility in our area as he has seen these children be transported over 3 states away from their parents who cannot afford to follow the child to the facility to provide support. The chief cited several examples from his years of service regarding children who are in desperate need of this type of facility and the services it provides, especially in the state of Oregon. The chief also stated that the fence solves two problems; it protects children inside the facility from getting outside, and it prevents predatory people from getting inside the facility. Chief Stokoe also mentioned that the area that this facility is located in is in a part of Boardman where the fence will not cause problems or look out of place, and asked that the Planning Commission grant the variance for the fence height so that the project can move forward.

Questions

No questions from commissioners at this time.

Opponent's Case

There were no opponents present for this hearing. The Community Development Director Barry Beyeler mentioned some comments he had heard in passing regarding the looks of the higher fence. Commission Chair Cain asked if there were any attendees online that would like to reply or comment and no one asked to make a comment at this time.

Questions

N/A

Rebuttal

N/A – Skipped due to no opponent's at the hearing.

**Commission Chair Cain closed the public hearing at 7:26 p.m.
Commission Chair Cain resumed the regular hearing at 7:26 p.m.**

Deliberation by Council

Commission Chair Cain commented that he was in total support of the project and the fence requested by Community Counseling Solutions.

Commissioner Jimenez also stated that she seconded Commissioner Cain's comments and can't wait for the facility to be open.

Commissioner Barresse also stated that he was in support of the project and the fence.

Commission Chair Cain stated he would entertain a motion on this matter. Commissioner Jimenez made a motion to approve the 12 foot fence and Commissioner Leighton seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Jennifer Leighton – Yes, Karla Jimenez – Yes, Ragna TenEyck – Yes, Zack Barrese – Yes, Sam Irons – Yes, Ethan Salata – Yes, Jacob Cain – Yes. The motion passed 7-0.

Commission Chair Cain thanked Director Lindsay and Chief Stokoe for their time. Director Lindsay invited everyone to the Open House and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

Community Development Director Barry Beyeler also thanked Director Lindsay and Chief Stokoe for their attendance at the meeting.

Commission Chair Cain asked if new members on the Planning Commission needed to be sworn in, and Director Beyeler said he would look into it. No other discussion items, or further comments were brought to attention.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.