

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION  
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

**Regular Meeting Held May 16, 2016**

Mayor Seibold called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers at the East Grand Rapids Community Center and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Commissioners Dills, Duncan, Hamrick, Miller, Skaggs, Zagel and Mayor Seibold

Absent: None

Also Present: City Attorney Huff; City Manager Donovan; Assistant City Manager LaFave; Public Safety Director Herald; Finance Director Mushong; City Clerk Brower; Captain Williams; Captain Buikema; Zoning Administrator Faasse; Assistant Parks & Recreation Director Perry; Account Clerk Ritzke

2016-47. Peter Dimetriou reported he had attended an event near Kalamazoo featuring a climatologist who outlined many concerns. Mr. Dimetriou asked for continued awareness of climate change issues.

2016-48. Commissioner Skaggs noted that many sidewalk replacement projects are underway. He also reported it has National Public Works Week and thanked the staff for all their work every day of the year.

Mayor Seibold noted that construction near the intersection of Lakeside/Breton/Lake Drive was starting this week and asked everyone to respect the posted detours. She also reported she had personally thanked the Public Works crews earlier in the day for all their work and talked with them about what they liked and disliked about their jobs.

2016-49. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of Chad & Stephanie Ackermann of 2560 Richards to allow the construction of an addition to the rear of the home creating a separation between the house and the garage of 4.0' instead of the required 10.0'.

Zoning Administrator Faasse explained the applicant's proposal for an addition to the rear of the home that would encroach into the separation requirement.

Doug Sikkema, representative for the applicants, explained the proposal to expand the dining area. He noted the homeowner's willingness to angle a corner of the addition to create a 6.0' separation instead of the 4.0' separation requested in the application.

Mayor Seibold opened a public hearing. No other public comment was received. Mayor Seibold closed the public hearing.

2016- -A. Dills-Duncan. That the request of Chad & Stephanie Ackermann of 2560 Richards to allow the construction of an addition to the rear of the home creating a separation between the house and the garage of 4.0' instead of the required 10.0' be approved.

Mayor Seibold showed photos of several properties in the surrounding area that had less than 10' of separation and her thoughts that this entire ordinance provision needed additional conversation due to the many requests received, the inconsistent decisions, and the unexplained reason for the 10' separation requirement. She felt a separation of 4' was too close to the home, but did not have a specific recommendation for a different setback.

Commissioner Duncan agreed some of the smaller separations were not aesthetically pleasing, but noted this particular home was at a disadvantage because it was set farther back from the street, thereby limiting options in the back of the home.

Commission Miller spoke in support of the variance since others had been granted in this general range.

Commissioner Hamrick agreed, stating that aesthetics are very subjective and the addition may fit in very well with the neighborhood.

Commissioner Skaggs felt a variance of 60% of the setback was a difficult approval to give.

Commissioner Dills stated he was hesitant to approve this after seeing the photos of other homes with 4-6' setbacks.

Yeas: Duncan, Hamrick, Miller – 3  
Nays: Dills, Skaggs, Zagel, Seibold – 4

Mayor Seibold asked whether the commissioners were willing to discuss a 6' separation as offered by the applicant. Commissioners declined to discuss this subsequent request until looking at the entire separation ordinance.

2016-50. Miller-Skaggs. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

- 2016- -A. To approve the minutes of the rescheduled regular meeting held May 2, 2016.
- 2016- -B. Report of Finance Committee on disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$234,838.49; county and school disbursements of \$-0-, and total remaining disbursements of \$267,444.99.
- 2016- -C. A contract for mulch for grounds maintenance operations to Superior Groundcover in the amount of \$6,306.25.
- 2016- -D. A contract with Sport and Spirit Products of Spring Grove, Illinois in the amount of \$45,854 for t-shirts for Parks & Recreation programs and events.
- 2016- -E. A resolution authorizing the SAW Grant Agreement as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.
- 2016- -F. The preliminary minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting held April 11, 2016.
- 2016- -G. The preliminary minutes of the Library Commission meeting held April 25, 2016.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Hamrick, Miller, Skaggs, Zagel and Seibold – 7  
Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until June 6, 2016.

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Karen K. Brower, City Clerk

Attachments: A – Resolution authorizing the SAW grant agreement.

Attachments listed above are available for inspection at the office of the City Clerk.