

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF EAST GRAND RAPIDS

Regular Meeting Held July 18, 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, Miller, Skaggs, Zagel, and Mayor Seibold

Absent: Commissioner Hamrick

Also Present: City Attorney Huff; Assistant City Manager LaFave; Finance Director Mushong; Public Safety Director Herald; Zoning Administrator Faasse; City Clerk Brower; Sgt. Davis; Sgt. Perez; PSO Naagtzaam; PSO Kreiner, PSO Moore, PSO Lobezoo, Bike Patrol Officers

2016-69. No public comment was received.

2016-70. Mayor Seibold presented four large posters with words of support and encouragement to the Public Safety Department in the aftermath of several shootings targeting police officers across the nation. Mayor Seibold stated our community is incredibly proud of our Public Safety officers and their dedication to those they are sworn to serve and protect. She thanked the officers present for their work on each shift and urged all the residents of the city to thank our officers with a friendly wave or a kind word.

Commissioner Dills thanked his fellow commissioners for electing him President of the commission at the last meeting.

2016-71. A zoning variance hearing was held regarding the request of Jason Hannah and Hanna Jaworski of 1222 Eastlawn to allow the construction of a covered front porch creating a front yard setback of 16.8' instead of the required 25.0.'

Zoning Administrator Faasse explained the request for a front yard setback variance to accommodate a new covered front porch that is part of a larger remodeling project. He noted this is the only house facing Eastlawn on this side of the street, so the typical averages do not apply in this case.

Jason Hannah, 1222 Eastlawn, noted the letters of support from neighbors regarding the project. Mark Frimodig, architect, noted the new porch would be consistent with the existing setbacks of surrounding garages and homes.

Mayor Seibold opened a public hearing. The following communications were received at City Hall concerning this variance request:

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| - Donald Perry, 1215 Eastlawn | No objection. |
| - Kathy & Kelly Swieter, 2227 Anderson | No objection. |
| - Suzanne Bonnah, 1225 Eastlawn | No objection. |
| - Jay Romanowski, 2241 Anderson | No objection. |
| - F. Spencer Brown, 2230 Hall | No objection. |

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

2016- -A. Dills-Miller. That the request of Jason Hannah and Hanna Jaworski of 1222 Eastlawn to allow the construction of a covered front porch creating a front yard setback of 16.8' instead of the required 25.0' be approved with the condition that the porch remain as unheated, unenclosed space and not converted into finished living space.

Commissioner Dills noted the current porch is only 19' from the property line, meaning this variance is really only about a 2' different from the current setback. He stated he would be supporting the variance.

Commissioner Miller spoke in favor of the addition as long as it was not converted into part of the home's living space at a future date.

Commissioner Skaggs stated that front porches encourage a sense of community and neighborhood interaction and he would support the request.

Mayor Seibold noted this was, indeed, the only home facing Eastlawn on this side of the street and that a variance to allow this change was not a significant issue to surrounding homes. She liked looking at variance requests on a case by case basis for this very reason.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Miller, Skaggs, Zagel and Seibold – 6
Nays: -0-

2016-72. Review of a special land use application and site plan approval request by Calvin College.

Commissioner Skaggs questioned whether a maximum number of residents in the Ravenswood facility should be included with the zoning approval. City Attorney Huff noted that Calvin College would have to come back to the city for approval if any significant changes were made to the building or its use. Commissioner Dills noted the Planning Commission had discussed this issue and did not place any limits on the proposed number of students to be housed at Ravenswood.

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

2016- -A. Skaggs-Dills. That Calvin College's request for a special land use status to use the Ravenswood House as student housing be granted and the site plan attached to their zoning review application submitted April 11, 2016 be approved.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Miller, Skaggs, Zagel and Seibold – 6
Nays: -0-

2016-73. Zagel-Duncan. To approve the consent agenda as follows:

2016- -A. To approve the minutes of the regular meeting held July 5, 2016.

2016- -B. Report of Finance Committee on disbursement of funds: payroll disbursements of \$229,531.97; county and school disbursements of \$1,729.58, and total remaining disbursements of \$247,593.66.

2016- -C. The preliminary minutes of the Planning Commission meeting held June 14, 2016.

Yeas: Dills, Duncan, Miller, Skaggs, Zagel and Seibold – 6
Nays: -0-

The meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m., subject to the call of the Mayor until August 1, 2016.

Karen K. Brower, City Clerk