CITY OF ST. PAUL PARK
ST. PAUL PARK, MINNESOTA

PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
Monday, April 8, 2019

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chair Dingle

Members present: Dan Dingle, Doug Pierro, Jeff Fischer, Patrick Downs
Member Absent: Sharon Whitmore
Also present: Council Liaison Sandi Dingle

Pledge of Allegiance said by all.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Fischer, second by Downs to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2019 Planning Commission meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

Commission Actions:

PUBLIC HEARING

A. St. Paul Park Refining Company, 301 St Paul Park Road, St Paul Park MN 55071 – CUP to construct a 39.5’ air cooler structure within refinery property.

Consulting Planner Sparks stated that the CUP request for 301 St Paul Park Road, air cooling tower structure is similar as in the past. Sparks provided diagrams showing what the SDA tanks currently look like and what the new tanks will look like. The concern from members were the noise levels Sparks indicated that the structure is an interior structure and noise wouldn’t be a concern. Staff recommends passing the CUP to the council at this time.

Motion by Fischer, second by Downs to recommend Council approve St. Paul Park Refining Company’s CUP request to construct a 39.5’ air cooler structure within refinery property. Motion carried 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion of short term rentals:

Consulting Planner Sparks advised the commission the City has been receiving complaints related to a short term rental. Sparks researched and located five room listings in the City offering vacation rentals at this one particular house.

Planner Sparks informed the commission that short term or vacation rentals have become a popular alternative to traditional vacation rentals. Sparks said that the typical concerns with this type of activity are that it impacts the residential neighborhoods of single family homes. Another concern is taxation. Hotels pay taxes to operate their units while the short term rentals are typically taxed as residential.

Currently short term rentals are not mentioned in the City Code. Also, the City Code does not have any provisions or regulations related to rental housing.

Consulting Planner Sparks informed the commission that these types of vacation/short term rentals may bring in transient residents that are just coming in to partake in a commercial service offered by the property owner. And they typically have no interest in the community.

Planner Sparks brought up four possible directions to the commission to consider as discuss the issue.

1. No code changes. Do not prohibit this use.
2. Amend the ordinance to prohibit short term rentals
3. Amend the ordinance to require registration of short term rentals
4. Consider regulations for all rental housing.

After much discussion and concerns brought up by commission members they agreed that the issue needs to be brought up at a Council meeting. The commission wants to include Police Chief Danberg in the discussion.

**Staff Reports:** None

**Unfinished Business:** None

Meeting adjourned 7:33 p.m.