

City of Norwich
Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes
Norwich City Court

February 12, 2018
7:00 PM

Present: J. Roque, D. DeForest, S. Prentice, M. Parker

Absent: K. Campbell, H. Graves, J. Miller

Staff: A. Donnison

I. Call to Order:

Chairman J. Roque called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Minutes of November 20, 2017 were approved on a motion made by S. Prentice. Seconded by D. DeForest. Ayes all.

II. Museum District Review:

Joseph Angelino was present to discuss the possible expansion of the Museum District boundaries. A map showing the current boundaries was distributed. J. Angelino stated that he was always under the assumption the boundary lines ran east and west rather than north and south as shown on the map. J. Angelino is requesting the boundaries be expanded west up Rexford Street to the intersection of North Broad Street and east down Rexford Street to the city line at the bridge. A. Donnison stated the reason the boundaries are what they are is because the Museum District overlay allows uses not allowed by right in the underlying zone which is primarily R-2 zone. An example of such is that a restaurant is permitted by right within the Museum District but not permitted by right in the R-2 zone.

J. Angelino stated that the Museum District would like to have buried lines and have period lighting installed. The new extension, if approved, would provide a "Gateway" where the museums could then have signage installed at each end announcing their location. A. Donnison noted that and signage at each end would be at the discretion of the NYS DOT regardless of any expansion and could be asked for now. J. Angelino stated that the car museum would hire an architect to design a site plan for the proposed new look. It was also noted that people back when the museum district was created believed the MD would be more restrictive when it is in fact the opposite.

J. Angelino stated the goal is to make the street look "old", to have a clear gateway to the district, have nyseg feed power lines to homes from the rear so lines are not so visible. There may be grants available to assist with the cost of these goals, but the applications will not be available until 2019 so thought now was a good time to get the thought process started.

J. Roque asked if a list could be compiled or a mapping showing the properties that would be

encompassed in the proposed expansion and if any other documentation on file could be provided for review at the next meeting.

III Adult Day Care:

J. Roque explained the need for adult day care in the area and a review of what had previously been discussed and that this may help ease those problems in our aging society. A. Donnison provided potential language for a definition of an Adult Day Care and suggested that if approved, the zones it may be allowed in by right mimic the zones of a child day care. Any regulations for the licensing or monitoring of an adult day care facility at the state or county level is unrelated to the allowance of a permitted use in a specific zone within the city. Discussion followed about the suggestion of permitting this as a by right use in the same zones child day care currently is allowed under.

Motion made by D. Deforest to forward to Common Council to amend the City of Norwich Zoning Ordinance definitions to include the following for *Group Adult Day Care: Provision of daytime care to adults whose ability to independently perform the normal activities of daily life is limited by age or physical or other impairment but who do not require the level of care provided by nursing homes or medical facilities. Said care shall be provided for a period of time of more than three (3) but less than twelve (12) hours on any given day.* Also forward to Common Council to amend the City of Norwich Zoning Ordinance Use Table to reflect Group Adult Day Care to be a use permitted by right in zones R-1, R-1A, R-2, R-3, B-1, B-2 & IN

Seconded by M. Parker. Ayes All

IV Sidewalk Improvement:

Further discussion on this topic is tabled until the next meeting.

V Other Items:

Chairman J. Roque suggested that when the agenda is light that the Planning Commission start to review the Comprehensive Plan for the purpose of being progressive and not reactive. Perhaps there are areas of the Comprehensive Plan that could be easily implemented now or should be updated. A. Donnison inquired that when time and staffing permits if the Planning Commission could start a section by section review of the Zoning Ordinance. As is indicated by tonight's motion, there are many areas that need to be updated to reflect current needs. J. Roque agreed and stated when time and staffing permits – let's make a start.

VI Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned on a motion made by S. Prentice at 8:24 pm seconded by M. Parker. Ayes all.