

City Planning Commission

Erie, Pennsylvania

November 19, 2019

-Minutes-

A meeting of the City Planning Commission was held Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at 1:00 pm in Room 500 of the City of Erie Municipal Building, 626 State Street, Erie PA 16501.

1. *Call to Order / Roll Call*

| Member Name | Present | Absent |
|------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Mark Kloecker, Chair | | X |
| Richard Speicher, Vice-Chair | X | |
| Armand Chimenti | X | |
| Erica Jenkins | X | |
| Jason Wieczorek | X | |

Four of five members present; quorum achieved

- Approval of the October 15, 2019 meeting minutes of the City Planning Commission.*
On a motion by Mr. Chimenti, seconded by Ms. Jenkins, the Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve the meeting minutes as received.
- Review of a Replot of land for VTL Properties, LLC located at 946 West 2nd Street prepared by David Laird Associates, Inc.*

Mr. Gusek, owner of both parcels being replotted, was present to describe the proposed subdivision and answer questions. He explained that the proposed replot is reversing a previously approved replot that was not officially finalized by recording deeds conveying the former replot area. The proposed replot will return the property lines to their original location. Mr. Welsh indicated that the property is located in a W-R zoning district; and that the proposed replot meets zoning requirements.

On a motion by Mr. Wieczorek, seconded by Ms. Jenkins, the Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve the replot.

4. *Presentation – East Bayfront Neighborhood Plan*

City Planning Director Kathy Wyrosdick provided an overview of the project, distributing copies of the plan and running through a slide presentation. She described that the purpose of this plan is to further the recommendations of the City of Erie's Comprehensive Plan, Erie Refocused, and to provide a guide for the revitalization of

the East Bayfront neighborhood. The elements of the plan focused heavily on stakeholder engagement, door to door surveys, and direction from a steering committee composed of city staff and major nonprofit organizations representing the neighborhood including the Bayfront Eastside Taskforce (BEST), ServErie, Eastside Eagles and Snoops. In 2018, the city along with neighborhood organizations and residents conducted a door-to-door survey as part of the Summer of Hope initiative, which informed and framed both the short and long term goals of the plan, in an effort to begin addressing the resident's top concerns and priorities.

The following short term strategies were developed:

Enhance street lighting - One of the resident's top concern was to add more lighting to the neighborhood, which could help reduce crime or the perception of crime. The city plans to replace lights with more powerful LED lighting as well as conduct tree trimming to unblock current lighting from overgrown branches.

Porch Lights on Initiative - Many cities around the country have partnered with local energy providers to install more energy efficient porch lights to their homes, helping make residents feel safer at night both while they are inside and outside their homes.

Security cameras - The city and its partners will help establish a stronger security camera presence in the area as part of the Secure Smart City efforts.

The following long term strategies were developed as recommendations for future development of the neighborhood to alleviate issues contributing to disinvestment and blight in the area:

Park and Trail Network - This long term goal recommends connecting the parks in the North and South end of the neighborhood by creating a trail and park system through targeted demolition of highly distressed buildings.

Targeted Reinvestment and Blight Reduction - This strategy is based off the recommendations of Erie Refocused, which calls for targeted demolition of highly distressed and blighted buildings while adding greenspace to the area. A redevelopment plan will be created that will act to certify the area for redevelopment and address the steps needed for blight removal, as well as identify spaces that the City should create to help the neighborhood stabilize including affordable and market rate housing, greenspace, and other amenities.

Enhance Parade Street Business Corridor - This strategy identified the need for more support for the established businesses through a corridor plan, façade grant program and development of a cultural heritage trail that tells the rich history of the area, acting as an attraction to the corridor. Greening of Parade Street and surface parking as well as adding bike lanes will be part of an overall redesign plan for Parade Street.

After further discussion of the planning process and recommendations, Ms. Wyrosdick indicated that the next step in the process is for the planning commission to consider endorsing the plan for approval by City Council. No action was taken on plan approval and recommendation to City Council, members requested additional time for further review of the document.

5. Adjournment