

City of Durham
Planning Commission
July 11, 2017

1-2. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL. Chair Goddard called the meeting to order at 7:30pm at Durham City Hall.

Commissioners Present: Pat Saab, Laurie Volm, and Jeffrey Anderson

Commissioners Absent: Krista Bailey, Julie Atwood, and Emily Baker

Staff Present: City Administrator Linda Tate and Administrative Assistant Lynn Schroder

Public Present: Jim Shelman, Durham resident and Phil Joslin, Durham resident

3. MINUTES OF THE June 6, 2017 COMMISSION MEETINGS. Commissioner Saab moved to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2017 meeting. Commissioner Volm seconded the motion. The minutes were approved 4-0. **MO 0711.1-17**

4. PUBLIC FORUM – none.

5. TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION 409-17 – 8096 SW Woody End. Phil Joslin requested approval to cut down a tall Douglas fir in his front yard. He stated that a root from the tree was pushing up the pavers of his walkway and his neighbor's small portable shed. The tree is part of a cluster of three Douglas fir trees.

Commissioner Goddard asked if the applicant had consulted an arborist. Joslin stated that an arborist confirmed that the root affecting his pavers is from the tree proposed to be removed.

Commission Saab asked about the impact of removing the tree on the remaining trees. Joslin stated he did not ask the arborist for that information. Tate stated that, when trees grow in a cluster, they protect each other. Goddard stated that the tree's root would need to be removed to push down the pavers. Digging the tree root out could harm the other trees. Goddard stated that all three trees appear to be healthy. Tate suggested that the pavers could be raised instead, eliminating the need to remove the tree and tree root. Tate noted that there are dips in the pavers as well.

Commissioner Volm suggested that the applicant first explore options to fix the pavers before seeking to remove the tree.

Commissioner Goddard moved to deny the tree removal request. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. Commissioner Saab amended the motion to allow the applicant to request that the Commission reconsidered the tree application if the applicant submits an arborist's report that evaluates project alternatives. Volm seconded the amended motion. The amended motion was approved 4-0. **MO 0711.2-17**

6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS. Commissioner Saab stated that she observed the Findlay Road gate opening for the Antique Car Show. She stated that the permit applicant did not have a volunteer directing traffic exiting Findlay to turn right only. Consequently, some cars turned left. She stated that the gate was opened for approximately 15 minutes. Approximately 15 cars exited Bridgeport Village via Findlay Road.

7. **ADJOURN.** Commissioner Volm moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Saab seconded and the motion passed unanimously (4-0). **MO 0711.3-17**

Chair Goddard adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:00pm.

Approved: _____
Brian Goddard, Chair

Attest: _____
Linda Tate, City Administrator