

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

AUGUST 20, 2002

A meeting of the Planning and Economic Development Committee was held on Tuesday, August 20, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber

Vice Chairman Scott A. Cote presided.

Members of the Committee present:

Alderman Kevin McAfee
Alderman Timothy B. Nickerson
Alderman Lori Cardin

Members Not in Attendance:

Alderman Brian S. McCarthy

Also in Attendance:

Mike Lowe, Planning Board Liaison
Kathy Hersh, Director, Community Development Division

DISCUSSION

An informational session was held with Urban Design Associates of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania relative to development and production of a new Downtown Master Plan.

COMMUNICATIONS

From: Roger L. Houston, Planning Director

Re: Planning Board's Favorable Recommendation – O-02-74

MOTION BY ALDERMAN CARDIN TO ACCEPT AND PLACE ON FILE
MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS - None

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HELD IN COMMITTEE

MOTION BY ALDERMAN MCAFEE TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE O-02-74
MOTION CARRIED

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O-02-74

Endorsers: Mayor Bernard A. Streeter
Alderman Brian S. McCarthy
Alderman Scott A. Cote

AMENDING THE FEE SCHEDULES OF THE CITY BUILDING REGULATIONS
AND

AMENDING THE FEES ASSOCIATED WITH SUBDIVISION, SITE PLAN,
REZONING,
SPECIAL EXCEPTION, VARIANCE, CONSERVATION COMMISSION,
HISTORIC
DISTRICT COMMISSION AND LAND USE APPLICATIONS

- Planning Board Issued Favorable Recommendation, August 8, 2002

MOTION BY ALDERMAN MCAFEE TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

-
Alderman Cardin

I have a question about the surcharges and why they didn't go up while everything else did.

Kathy Hersh

-
The reason they didn't go up is because there is a fine line between making sure when somebody comes in for that permit, even after the fact, and discouraging them from coming in at all. I think that was the logic that was used in that. It's important to note that these fees are really policy decisions. If you feel that is something that should be raised that's up to this Board. This was presented to you based on our analysis and what we thought was a fair amount of percentage of the costs of the departments towards that.

Mr. Lowe

-
(Inaudible) about the \$250 fee insomuch that they are already paying the fee.

Kathy Hersh

-
There is no fee for the Conservation Commission.

Mr. Lowe

-
(Inaudible) before the Board?

Kathy Hersh

-

I don't think there's a fee to go to the Conservation Commission.

Mr. Lowe

- The money that goes into the account, the Conservation Commission gets to keep the money. Right now they have \$750,000 in that.

Kathy Hersh

- That's the conservation fund. The conservation fund is generated by properties that are in current use status, which is a status that you can get through the state. When someone takes their property out of current use, they have to pay a penalty. That penalty goes into the conservation fund. That is totally separate. The application fees all go to a general fund. Any of the permit fees or anything that is before you in this piece of legislation goes to the general fund. They don't come into our budget or into the Conservation Commission budget or the conservation fund.

Mr. Lowe

- Some of these people will be paying not only this fee but the other fee too at the same time. There should be some way that we balance that out.

Alderman Cote

- I think they are mixed issues altogether. This is principally to try to capture costs associated with the staff processing for Conservation Commission applications, staff time associated with being at the meetings, staff report filings that have to be done, and all those issues where we've never really have collected a fee for that before. The other issue is actually completely separate but maybe we can check with Kathy Nelson.

Kathy Hersh

- I received that e-mail as well. Her concern had to do with the application fee because there had not been application fees. She was concerned that it might discourage people from coming to the Conservation Commission and instead just doing the work. The application fee is to cover the costs. Back in the early 90's we had four planners. When the economy dropped we lost a planner. As the economy has picked up, we only gained that planner back this past spring. Some months it got really very busy in there and we weren't able to support the Conservation Commission as much as we would like. We're now back to where part of a planner's time is dedicated to supporting the Conservation Commission. There is more time being spent in the Planning Department so there is a cohesive review of plans throughout the process. That's why we proposed that application fee – not to cover but to go towards some of the staff's time in reviewing plans in support of that Board.

Alderman Cote

- I know that there has been a tremendous amount of time spent on this to bring the fee structure to a level to what is consistent with other communities and to really reflect the cost of the work associated with doing the inspections and so forth. I think Mr. Walsh and Mr. Santa did a very good job pulling this together.

Kathy Hersh

- And Mr. Houston.

Alderman Cote

- And Mr. Houston.

- MOTION CARRIED

POSSIBLE NON-PUBLIC SESSION

- DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN CARDIN TO ADJOURN

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Timothy Nickerson
Committee Clerk, Pro Tem