

**CITY OF EYOTA
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
MAY 21, 2014**

Present: Members: Dana Allen-Tully, Barry Karsjens, Chad Ohl and Janet Hughes
Secretary Marlis Knowlton

Absent: Member: Scot Field Council Rep: Bryan Cornell and Ray Schuchard

Call to Order: Co-Chair Barry Karsjens called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approve Agenda: Motion was made by Ohl and seconded by Allen-Tully to approve the agenda as presented. Discussion: request to add agenda item to accept the resignation of Scot Field. Amended motion was made to set the agenda with the one addition. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Minutes: Motion was made by Ohl and seconded by Hughes to approve the April 17, 2014 regular meeting minutes. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Variance Hearing: J.B. and Mandi Mathison of 611 Madison Avenue SW front yard setback variance to build an enclosure on the front of their house; a roof, stoop with steps and a waist high railing. It would not be enclosed. See "Exhibit A"

Motion was made by Ohl and seconded by Allen-Tully to close the regular meeting. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried. Motion was made by Allen-Tully and seconded by Hughes to open the public hearing. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

This variance is requested to be seven feet six inches in the front yard to add a porch to the front of the house. One written comment was received from Dan Sturm (227 6 ST SW) stating "I am totally in favor of the project". David Jorde (223 6 ST SW) stated he is also in support of the project. He lives very near and is not affected visually; this addition would not cause a problem.

Mandi Mathison explained that they do not have the building plans finalized and may want to make the addition a bit smaller; reducing the variance. The Commission discussed that the addition must stay open; a condition would be it can not be an enclosed porch. It was explained that a variance stays with the property, so this addition should not be enclosed by any future home owner.

Motion was made by Allen-Tully and seconded by Ohl to close the public hearing. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried. Motion was made by Allen-Tully and seconded by Hughes to open the regular meeting. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

The Commission discussed, in detail, with the Mathison's the size of this porch. If it is constructed smaller, meaning the variance would be less; that is not a problem. But the Commission was concerned that the porch should not be made wider to cover the entire front of the house, or major portion of the front of the house.

Motion was made by Ohl and seconded by Allen-Tully to recommend to the Council to approve the seven foot six inch variance, with a maximum eight foot width, a smaller porch would be acceptable and the condition that it will not be enclosed. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Mathison's were concerned if their building plans change what happens if the porch is wider than the approved eight feet, even if it is eight feet six inches.

An amended motion was made by Hughes and seconded by Ohl to recommend the variance does not exceed seven feet six inches, the porch shall be open, not closed and it shall not exceed twelve feet wide (north/south). Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Finding of Facts:

Mathison's request for a front porch may be reduced in size. The City Council will address that issue if required.

Whereas the variance request is reasonable as it will not have any negative visual effect on traffic.

Whereas the variance request has not created any opposition from the neighborhood.

Whereas the variance request will not negatively affect the value of the home or neighborhood.

Whereas the variance request will not negatively affect the essential character of the neighborhood.

The Commission recommends the City Council approve this variance request.

Other Business:

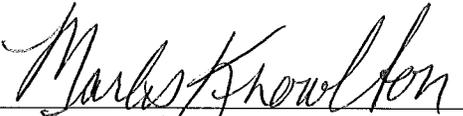
Resignation of Scot Field: Knowlton received, today, the resignation of Scot Field.

It comes with deep regret that I have to resign effective immediately from the Planning and Zoning Commission. I really hoped that I would have more time available to commit to this position but with both my daughters playing travelling soccer and my umpiring and officiating, I just don't have the time to make the meetings. I have to choose family and income before P & Z. After my children are older and gone, I will definitely consider coming back. I hope you can understand and appreciate my position. Deepest Regards, Scot Field.

Motion was made by Allen-Tully and seconded by Hughes to accept Scot Field's resignation. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

2014 Chair and Co-Chair: Motion was made by Allen-Tully and seconded by Hughes to appoint Barry Karsjens as Chair. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried. Motion was made by Allen-Tully and seconded by Hughes to accept Chad Ohl's offer to volunteer and appoint him as Co-Chair. Ayes 3, Nays 0, Abstained 1 (Chad Ohl abstained). Motion carried.

Adjourn: Motion was made by Ohl and seconded by Allen-Tully to adjourn. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried. Meeting was declared adjourned at 7:30 p.m.


Marlis Knowlton
Clerk/Treasurer