

Observer: Sue Calder

Aldermen Present: Burns chair; Kelly, Revelle, Nieuwsma, Geracaris (via Zoom), and Reid.

Staff Present: Stoneback, Flax, Stowe, Price

Start: 6:52

End: 7:50

Public Comment

Vasilko: Opposed to P1 and D1 needs a RFP. Loellbach: FUSE would help the city identify and organize an approach and locations for affordable housing, would help the city to get money for it; go forward now rather than waiting for a new Comprehensive Plan.

Approval of Minutes

Passed

For Consideration and Action

P1 Consider of Permit Fine Reduction for Work Completed at 1000 Central St (part of NorthShore University Health System). Staff stated that the permit was requested during Covid and staffing was low, thus permits were slow; the contractor was notified that the plans were approved, paid the fees but started without the permit being actually issued; strong consideration was given that the building provides a valuable service for the community. Kelly stated that staff needs to improve the communication so that contractors understand that plans being approved does not mean a permit is issued. Reid said the original fines should be paid to benefit all residents. The vote was 3-3, thus it would go to Council with no recommendation. P2 Vacation Rental License for 2545 Lawndale. Suffriden had requested this be tabled. Reid moved that it be tabled and the issue was passed on a voice vote.

For Discussion

D1 Burns sought confirmation to proceed with using an Executive Fellow from FUSE (see packet for description) at a cost of \$180,000. The ED made a presentation on how FUSE works: the Fellow (an executive with about 15 years of experience would assist the city to identify the parameters of the project, help to change systems that are rooted in racism, would begin on 10/31/22 and end a year later (however, she later said about 50% get extended for a second year). CM Revelle expressed concern that this was placing another role on Flax (in addition to her work load, she is acting Community Development Dir.). The Fellow would be supervised primarily by an executive from FUSE. Kelly would like to know outcomes from other cities. Nieuwsma asked where the money would come from and Flax gave a very convoluted non-answer. Reid pointed out that this would help residents in wards 2, 5 and 8. To be continued...