



**MINUTES OF THE
CITY OF FRONTENAC
BOARD OF ALDERPERSONS & ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2020
WORKSHOP MEETING**

The June 11, 2020, workshop meeting of the City of Frontenac was called to order at 5:00 p.m. with Mayor Kate Hatfield and Tom Erman presiding. The Alderpersons present were Dan Millman, Brian Warner, Dan Kemper, and Jamie Griesedieck and Tom O'Brien, Nalini Mahadevan participated via telephone. The Architectural Review Board Members present were Kris Anderson and Virginia Eckhoff, (who participated via telephone).

Also, in attendance were Building Commissioner, John Morgan; City Administrator, Jaysen Christensen; and City Clerk, Leesa Ross.

A. PRESENTATION OF THE FY 2020-2021 BUDGET

Mayor Hatfield stated she wanted an education session for the Board of Alderperson about the Architectural Review Board. The meeting will consist of the purpose of the ARB and to show what is being done in the city, and to see what other cities are doing, particularly the City of Ladue.

Mr. Erman said they do not design houses, and that 95% of what they do is residential. They are subjective with a good group of people. He said Ms. Eckhoff has a good feel of landscaping.

Alderman Millman asked if subdivision trustees are able to overrule a house. Mr. Morgan stated no, they cannot. He said issues between trustees and an individual owner is a civil manner. The city does not enforce indentures.

The main discussion were issues with landscaping that are occurring during their reviews. Mr. Erman stated homeowners have budgets for their buildings and when they get around to the landscaping portion of the build, they run out of money and cut their landscaping. Mr. Erman stated the landscaping is part of the home and is part of their review.

Photos were shown of landscaping, especially the screening of garages, and pool equipment. There was discussion about the planting of arborvitae trees, and what happens when the trees die, photos were show.

Ms. Eckhoff stated they prefer four season screening plantings. The attempt to screen garage doors, air conditioner units, pool equipment and generators. Mr. Morgan stated they ask that

10-12 feet trees are planted.

There were discussions about screening verses cedar fences. The ARB board said they don't want to see only arborvitae trees everywhere. They stated they encourage landscaping instead of privacy fences.

Additional discussion was made about an issue of landscaping on a home on Countryside Lane. The ARB members said they would like a balance on landscaping issues.

The ARB feels the city and alderpersons are their allies, but they want everyone to know what they are faced with. They asked the builders and home owners to submit a house plan with a landscaping plan, as landscaping is sometimes cut after budgets are overrun. They want to avoid issues like they faced on Countryside Lane.

Mayor Hatfield said the city has landscaping and tree preservation regulations. She feels the ordinances need to be strengthened and the sums of the escrow bonds reviewed. Alderperson O'Brien agreed that more teeth are needed for some of these issues. The City of Ladue's ordinances were discussed, which includes maintenance, prevention and minimum sizes. Mr. Morgan said some things need to be rewritten, in the ARB ordinance, and stated the ordinance mentions disharmonious, unsightly, and grotesque, which is subject to interpretation. Mr. Erman said we need balance, and requested the ordinance is expanded. Ms. Eckhoff said the buildings should be harmonious with the existing neighborhood, along with the size of the structures.

Mayor Hatfield said she would like everyone to go through the Ladue ordinance, which was passed in 2015. She said she would also like to see a FAQ produced for Frontenac.

There was an additional discussion to change the escrow fees, and to perhaps add a sliding scale. Escrow bonds were discussed further.

2. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.