

**CITY OF ST. FRANCIS
ST. FRANCIS, MN
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
June 19, 2013**

1. **Call to Order:** The Planning Commission meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Acting Chair Ray Steinke.
2. **Roll Call:** Present were Ray Steinke, William Murray, Greg Zutz, Joel Olson and City Planner Nate Sparks. Commissioners Rich Skordahl, Roni Ronyak, and Todd Gardner were excused.
3. **Adopt Agenda:** MOTION BY OLSON, SECOND BY ZUTZ TO ADOPT THE JUNE 19, 2013 PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.
4. **Approve Minutes:** MOTION BY OLSON, SECOND BY MURRAY TO APPROVE THE MAY 15, 2013 PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.
5. **Public Comment:** None
6. **Public Hearing – Sign Variance – Landmark Bank – 23671 Ambassador Blvd**
Sparks stated Landmark Bank has made an application to enlarge a sign within the required setback to Highway 47 which requires a variance. The sign setback is required to be 10 feet and the sign was originally conforming but the State acquired additional right-of-way placing the sign in the setback. It now is one foot off the property line. The expansion of the sign would be conforming with City size standards. Moving the sign back would place it near screening trees obscuring the view of the auto body repair use next door which could obscure the view of the sign from the right-of-way.

Steinke opened the Public Hearing at 7:03 Public Hearing Closed at 7:04 pm.

Olson said that the loss of land due to the right-of-way acquisition created a practical difficulty.

MOTION BY ZUTZ, SECOND BY MURRAY TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE VARIANCE. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.
7. **Discussion Item – Yard Parking Ordinance**
Sparks stated that there have been complaints received by the Code Enforcement Division regarding people parking their cars on the yard and accessing their properties through the yard and not the driveway. Sparks presented two model ordinances in use in neighboring cities that address similar situations. Olson stated a preference for an ordinance that was simple and along the same lines as the model from Cambridge. Zutz stated that he was in favor of an ordinance such as this in order to project a positive image of the community. Murray said the parking pads should be connected to the driveways. Sparks stated a draft ordinance would be brought back for review at a future meeting.
8. **Adjournment:** MOTION BY MURRAY, SECOND BY OLSON TO ADJOURN MEETING AT 7:40 PM. MOTION CARRIED 4-0

Nate Sparks, City Planner

Date