

FLOODPLAIN PERMIT COMMITTEE MEETING
201 West Gray, Building A, Conference Room D

Monday, March 2, 2020
3:30 p.m.

Minutes

PRESENT: Shawn O’Leary, Director of Public Works
Jane Hudson, Director of Planning and Community Development
Scott Sturtz, City Engineer
Ken Danner, Subdivision Development Manager
Sherri Stansel, Citizen Member
Neil Suneson, Citizen Member

OTHERS PRESENT: Carrie Evenson, Stormwater Program Manager
Todd McLellan, Development Engineer
Amy Shepard, Staff
Alec Bass, Wallace Engineering

The meeting was called to order by Shawn O’Leary at 3:32 p.m.

Item No. 1, Approval of Minutes:

All members of the committee were present, and a quorum was established. Mr. O’Leary called for a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of October 21, 2019. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Scott Sturtz, with one spelling correction. The motion was seconded by Ken Danner. The minutes were approved 5-0, with Neil Suneson abstaining due to his absence at the previous meeting.

Item No. 2, Floodplain Permit Application No. 611:

Mr. O’Leary said this application is to construct three (3) stream crossings, two (2) benches, two (2) light poles, 881 linear feet of concrete walking trails, and 1,939 linear feet of cross country trails in Ruby Grant Park an exciting Norman Forward project in the Little River floodplain. Dr. Carrie Evenson gave the staff report for Floodplain Permit Application No. 611

and made note that only two (2) of the three (3) stream crossings are within the floodplain. Dr. Evenson acknowledged Mr. Danner for bringing attention to the correction and said the record would be updated to reflect that correction. Dr. Evenson said the applicant is the City of Norman Parks and Recreation Department contracted with Crosslands Construction, Inc., and the engineer is Alec Bass with Wallace Engineering. Dr. Evenson said Ruby Grant Park is owned and operated by the City of Norman Parks and Recreation Department and consists of 144 acres located between 36th Ave NW and I-35 south of West Franklin Rd. Dr. Evenson said when the park is fully constructed, it will provide the general public with access to walking trails, cross-country trails, pavilions, dog park, playground, disc golf course, and parking areas. Dr. Evenson said only the northeast corner of Ruby Grant Park is located in the Little River Floodplain. Dr. Evenson said a Water Quality Protection Zone (WQPZ) is located on the property that will be dedicated with the filing of the final plat. There will not be any structures within the WQPZ, however there will walking trails throughout the WQPZ. Dr. Evenson presented aerial photographs of the location, the floodplain location, and the WQPZ that will be dedicated. Dr. Evenson reviewed the locations of the stream crossings, and noted the third crossing that is within the WQPZ area but not within the floodplain. Dr. Evenson verified the application meets all applicable ordinances and said that staff recommends approval of Floodplain Permit Application No. 611.

Mr. O'Leary asked if Mr. Bass would like to add any additional information. Mr. Bass said that the staff report was a great summary and that he would just like to add that care was taken in selection of the compensatory storage area to ensure that flow would remain the same or improve. Mr. O'Leary complimented the project and confirmed construction has begun on the park improvements and City Council has shown interest in expanding the project to include

more amenities through a future bond issue. Mr. O'Leary said if project expansion occurs within the floodplain, then the Applicant may need to submit another Floodplain Permit Application to the Floodplain Permit Committee for that work. Mr. Bass said the project is a multi-phase project, and this is just the initial phase. Mr. O'Leary asked if there were any questions or comments from the committee. Mr. Sturtz said the trails are a great use of the floodplain area and has shown benefit in other locations including keeping the public involved and providing an opportunity to educate on best practices. Mr. Sturtz recommended approval of Floodplain Permit Application No. 611. Mr. Danner seconded the motion. The committee voted to approve the application 6-0.

Item No. 3, Miscellaneous Discussion:

- a) Mr. O'Leary presented the 2019 Floodplain Permit Committee yearly summary. Mr. O'Leary said there is a trend of fewer floodplain permit applications year over year from between 10-15 down to 5 in 2019. Mr. O'Leary said there were 5 violations in 2019 with two still pending action. Mr. O'Leary stated that over the last 5-6 years, a flood insurance study has been in progress for 10 Mile Flat and Brookhaven Creek and that he anticipates completion in late spring. Mr. O'Leary spoke about the Community Rating System and work completed by staff to educate the public about the floodplain. Mr. O'Leary acknowledged a very robust plan for Hazard Mitigation by Cleveland County that the City of Norman has taken part in and recognized Dr. Evenson as the liason for that project, which has been completed and is very near adoption. Mr. O'Leary said a thoughtful hazard mitigation plan is a great tool for obtaining grant funding and to mitigate some of the hazards once identified. Mr. O'Leary reviewed the Floodplain Permit Committee annual attendance and noted that Jane Hudson has taken the vacant

seat of the Director of Planning and Community Development and, once hired, a new Principal Planner will then join the committee.

Sherry Stansel inquired about the status of the violation in the Canadian River floodplain.

Dr. Evenson said that contact was made and actions were taken by the resident to address the violation in October 2019; however, in January 2020, the illegal placement of fill resumed, and the violation was referred to the Legal Department for further action.

Dr. Evenson confirmed that the open violation at 535 Pickard Ave. had also been referred to the Legal Department for further action. Mr. O'Leary said the violations on Pickard Ave. are the first of his knowledge that are of this severity and would require removing a large structure.

b) Mr. O'Leary stated the filing deadline for the March 16, 2020, meeting had passed, and the meeting has been cancelled.

c) Mr. O'Leary said the deadline for the April 6, 2020, meeting is coming up on March 18, 2020, and asked Dr Evenson if she anticipated any Floodplain Permit applications.

Dr. Evenson said she was aware of one potential Floodplain Permit application from the Parks and Recreation Department in reference to the skate park in Andrews Park.

Item No. 4, Adjournment:

Mr. O'Leary called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Sturtz motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Mr. Danner. Motion was approved 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m.