

REGULAR SESSION

JANUARY 10, 2012

The Zoning Board of Adjustments of the City of Athens, Texas met in Regular Session on Tuesday, January 10, 2012, 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Athens City Hall Annex with the following members present, to-wit:

Bob McDonald
Jack Bateman
Mamie Stafford
Joe Whatley

Gary Crecelius, Director of Planning & Development
Pam Watson, City Secretary

others present: Marlena Taylor and other interested citizens;

with the following member absent: Todd Fowler;

constituting a quorum at which time the following proceedings were enacted, to-wit:

Member McDonald called the meeting to Order.

DISCUSS/CONSIDER ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A motion was made by Member Whatley, seconded by Member Bateman to elect Bob McDonald as Chairman. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Member Whatley, seconded by Member Stafford to elect Jack Bateman as Vice Chairman. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 12, 2011 REGULAR SESSION

A motion was made by Member Bateman, seconded by Member Whatley to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2011 Regular Session, as written. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING FENCE VARIANCE FOR LOT 11A, BLOCK A, MATTHEWS SUBDIVISION, OWNED BY THE FAMILY PEACE PROJECT (720 EAST CORSICANA ST.)

Gary Crecelius, Director of Planning & Development explained that The Family Peace Project is requesting a fence variance to allow them to place a six ft. (6') black chain link fence around their property located at 720 East Corsicana St. which would require a 25 ft. setback variance along both street frontages of Matthews St. and East Corsicana St., as well as a variance to allow for a six ft. (6') fence to be placed in the front yard (East Corsicana St.). He stated that twelve (12) surrounding property owners were notified with no written objections being received, however, one (1) phone call was received expressing concerns with a six ft. (6') fence being allowed in the front yard.

Marlena Taylor with The Family Peace Project explained that the first floor of the building located on the property is utilized for retail sales and the second floor provides temporary housing. She stated that the fence is being requested to secure the perimeter around the parking lot and front yard primarily for safety purposes, explaining that housing cannot be provided for a person with children due to there being no yard with a safe playing environment.

Member McDonald expressed his concerns with the safety issue of the children, as well as setting a precedence, asking if there were other alternatives.

Member Bateman expressed his concerns with the variance due to it permanently remaining with the property.

The Board suggested that a wrought iron fence be considered for the front yard, with Ms. Taylor responding that she was unsure if there were funds for wrought iron fencing, however, they could possibly consider a picket fence.

After discussion, the public hearing was closed.

CONSIDER FENCE VARIANCE FOR LOT 11A, BLOCK A, MATTHEWS
SUBDIVISION, OWNED BY THE FAMILY PEACE PROJECT (720 EAST
CORSICANA ST.)

A motion was made by Member Stafford to table the item until the next meeting date. The item died for lack of a second.

After discussion, a motion was made by Member Stafford, seconded by Member Whatley to table the item until the next meeting date to consider possible alternatives. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 14TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2012.

Bob McDonald, Chairman

ATTEST:

Pam Watson, City Secretary