



## PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, April 03, 2025 4:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: Pursuant to due notice and call thereof a Regular Meeting of the Grand Rapids Planning Commission will be held on Thursday, April 3, 2025 at 4:00 PM in City Hall Council Chambers, 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

#### CALL OF ROLL:

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consider approval of the February 6, 2025 regular meeting minutes.

#### **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

- Conduct a Public Hearing to consider a variance petition submitted by Stewart Simmons (PID 91-650-1230)
- 3. Conduct a Public Hearing to consider a variance petition submitted by Keystone Design Build (PID 91-028-3415)

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

- 4. Consider initiating the process to review and amend Sec. 30-564 (23) Farm Animals of the Land Use Regulation Ordinance
- Consider the election of Planning Commission Officers

#### PUBLIC INPUT:

Individuals may address the Planning Commission about any non-public hearing item or any item not included on the Regular Meeting Agenda. Speakers are requested to come to the podium, state their name and address for the record and limit their remarks to three (3) minutes.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS:**

#### REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES:

#### ADJOURNMENT:

NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 1, 2025 AT 4:00 PM.

Hearing Assistance Available: This facility is equipped with a ready assistance system.

ATTEST: Aurimy Groom, Administrative Assistant





# PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 06, 2025 4:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: Pursuant to due notice and call thereof a Regular Meeting of the Grand Rapids Planning Commission will be held on Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 4:00 PM in City Hall Council Chambers, 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

#### CALL OF ROLL:

#### **PRESENT**

Commissioner Paul Bignall Commissioner Amanda Lamppa Commissioner David Marquardt Commissioner David Kreitzer

#### **ABSENT**

Commissioner Betsy Johnson Commissioner Patrick Goggin

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consider approval of the December 5, 2024 regular meeting minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Lamppa, second by Commissioner Kreitzer to approve the minutes from the December 5, 2024 regular meeting. The following voted in favor thereof: Lamppa, Kreitzer, Bignall. Opposed: None, Marquardt abstained, motion passed.

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

2. Consider a recommendation to the City Council regarding a vacation of a platted utility easement (Airport South Industrial Park – Phase 1)

Community Development staff is asking the Planning Commission to consider a recommendation to the City Council regarding a vacation of a platted utility easement in the Airport South Industrial Park-Phase 1. Assistant Community Development Director Swenson provided background.

The Commissioners reviewed the considerations for the record:

1. Is the right-of-way needed for traffic purposes? Why/Why not? No, it is in a field it is not needed for traffic purposes.

- 2. Is the right-of-way needed for pedestrian purposes? Why/Why not? No, due to it's location there is no need for pedestrian purposes.
- 3. Is the right-of-way needed for utility purposes? Why/Why not? No, due to the combination of the parcels it is no longer needed.
- 4. Would vacating the right-of-way place additional land on the tax rolls? Why/Why not? Yes, a very small portion.
- 5. Would vacating the right-of-way facilitate economic development in the City? Why/Why not? Yes, it will allow for future development.

Motion by Commissioner Marquardt, second by Commissioner Kreitzer to approve initiating the vacation request of the platted utility easement described as:

A thirty-foot-wide utility easement centered on the north, east, and south lines of Lot 5, Block 2 of Airport South Industrial Park - Phase 1, Grand Rapids, Itasca County, Minnesota.

The following voted in favor thereof: Kreitzer, Marquardt, Lamppa, Bignall. Opposed: None, motion passed unanimously.

3. Consider initiating the process to review and amend Division 30-VI-12 (Floodplain Restrictions) of the Land Use Regulations Ordinance

Staff would like the Planning Commission to consider initiating the review and consideration of an amendment to Division 30-VI-12 (Floodplain Restrictions) of the Ordinance. The Ordinance is being amended to incorporate the updated Flood Insurance Rate Map panels and Flood Insurance Study for Itasca County, to maintain participation in the Nation Flood Insurance Program.

Motion by Commissioner Kreitzer, second by Commissioner Lamppa to initiate the review of Division 30-VI-12 entitled (Floodplain Restrictions) to meet current State and Federal standards. The following voted in favor thereof: Bignall, Lamppa, Marquardt, Kreitzer. Opposed: None, motion passed unanimously.

4. Consider a recommendation to the City Council regarding an amendment to Division 30-VI-12 (Floodplain Restrictions) of the Land Use Regulations Ordinance

Assistant Community Development Director Swenson provided background information. The ordinance is being amended to incorporate the updated Flood Insurance Rate Map panels and Flood Insurance Study for Itasca County, to maintain participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.

The Commissioners read their considerations for the record:

- 1. Will the change affect the character of neighborhoods? Why/Why not? No, there is no change to the neighborhoods.
- 2. Would the change foster economic growth in the community? Why/Why not? Yes, it will allow for the purchase of flood insurance for those who need it.

- 3. Would the proposed change be in keeping with the spirit and intent of the ordinance? Why/Why not? Yes, it is maintaining FEMA and DNR standards.
- 4. Would the change be in the best interest of the general public? Why/Why not? Yes, it will allow for the purchase of flood insurance.
- 5. Would the change be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan? Why/Why not? Yes, it allows the opportunity for growth.

Motion by Commissioner Lamppa, second by Commissioner Kreitzer that, based on the findings of fact presented here today, and in the public's best interest, the Planning Commissioner does hereby forward a favorable recommendation to the City Council regarding a draft amendment to replace the existing floodplain restrictions ordinance language with ordinance language consistent with state floodplain management rules and the floodplain management standards of the Federal Emergency Management Agency of Division 30-VI-12 of the land use regulation ordinance. The following voted in favor thereof: Kreitzer, Marquardt, Lamppa, Bignall. Opposed: None, motion passed unanimously.

#### PUBLIC INPUT:

Individuals may address the Planning Commission about any non-public hearing item or any item not included on the Regular Meeting Agenda. Speakers are requested to come to the podium, state their

name and address for the record and limit their remarks to three (3) minutes. None

**MISCELLANEOUS:** 

None

REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

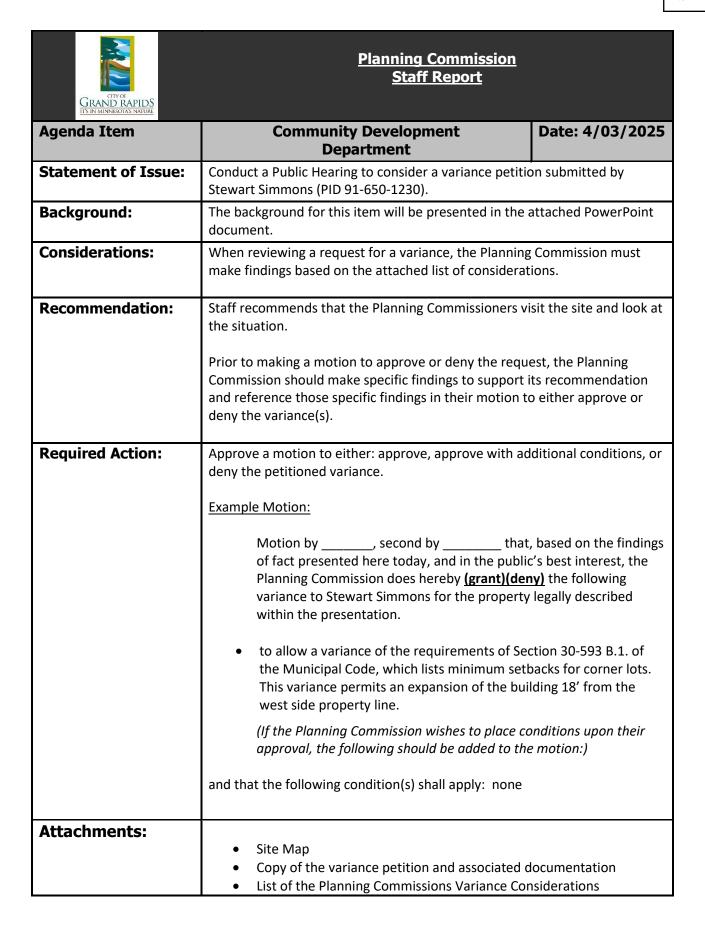
There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 6, 2025 AT 4:00 PM.

Hearing Assistance Available: This facility is equipped with a ready assistance system.

#### ATTEST:

Aurimy Groom, Administrative Assistant





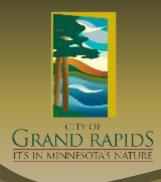
# **Public Hearing**

# **Stewart Simmons Variance Request**

PID: 91-650-1230

Oakland Addition to Grand Rapids, Lots 11-12, Blk 12

April 3, 2025



- Petitioners: Stewart Simmons
- Filing Date: February 16, 2025
- Requested Variances: The requested variance would permit the construction of a 20'x24' addition to the west side of the single-family home that extends 12' into the required 30' side yard setback.
- Relevant portions of Zoning Ordinance: Section 30-593 B.1. of the Municipal code, which lists minimum yard setbacks for corner lots, "Corner lots. Where a side yard abuts a street which is adjacent to the front yard on one or more residential lots on the same block, such side yards shall be a minimum of 30 feet. The same yard dimension determined for a side yard shall apply to structures in the rear yard".
- Legally Described Property:
  - Oakland Addition to Grand Rapids, Lots 11-12, Blk 12

# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS ITS IN MINNESOTA'S NATURE

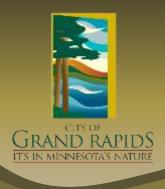
# **Variance Request**

## **Variance Details:**

# The applicant describes:

- The unique size of the parcel and location of the property that abuts a street as a circumstance that was not created by the owner.
- The addition to the single-family home as consistent with the current zoning and in harmony with the surrounding neighborhood.

# VARIANCE 20° X 24° ADDITION



## **Variance Details:**

- Subject property is a 6,623 sq. ft. parcel with a single-family home and a storage shed.
   With the proposed addition the property will not exceed the maximum lot coverage of 30%.
- The closest point of the addition is of 18' from the west property line.



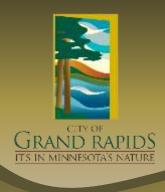


## **Summary of requested variance:**

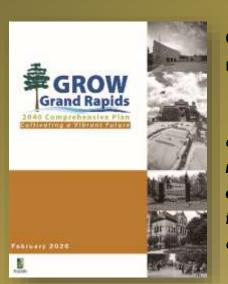
The proposed project would require the Planning Commission's approval of one variance:

1) Section 30-593 b.1. of the Municipal Code, which list required side and rear yard enlargement stating," Corner lots. Where a side yard abuts a street which is adjacent to the front yard on one or more residential lots on the same block, such side yards shall be a minimum of 30 feet. The same yard dimension determined for a side yard shall apply to structures in the rear yard".

This variance would permit the proposed addition to the single-family home at a reduced setback of 18', which is 12' less than required.



Comprehensive Plan: Goals & Objectives related to Land Use



Goal 4: Protect and enhance the character, amenities, variation, and livability of residential areas.

b. Promote the development, rehabilitation, and retention of neighborhoods and their existing character within urbanized areas. Traditional neighborhoods are the largest residential land use category on the Future Land Use Map. Core neighborhoods contain a variety of traditional architectural styles and naturally-occurring affordable housing. A focus on retention and enhancement of core neighborhoods helps preserve the City's cultural identity and strengthens community.



# Planning Commission Variance Considerations:

# **Variance Request**

#### PLANNING COMMISSION

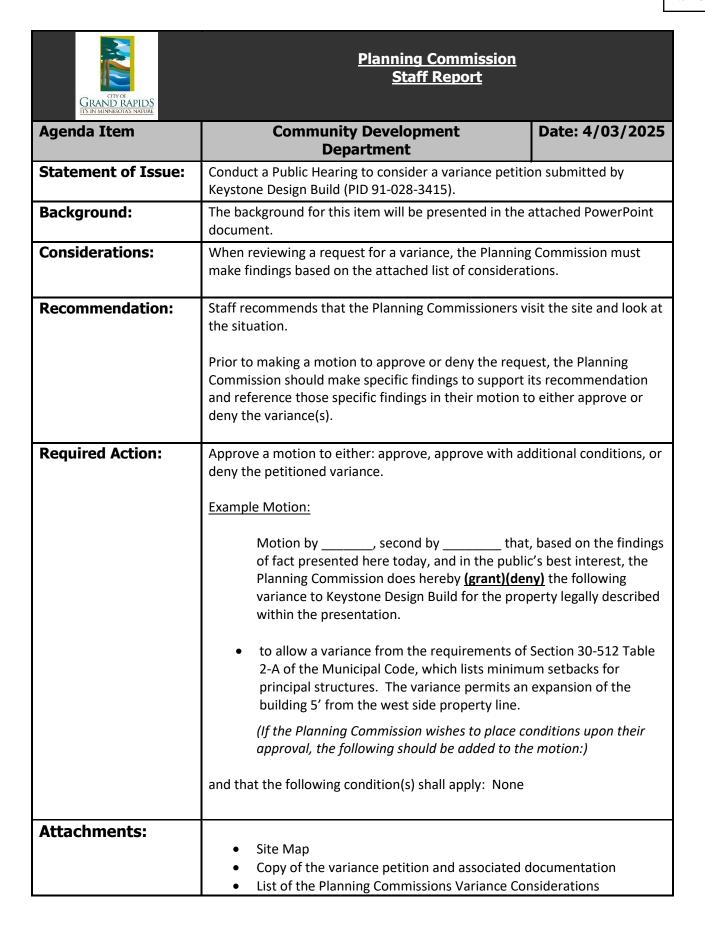
Considerations

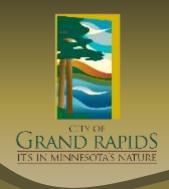
#### VARIANCE

- 1. Is this an "Area" variance rather than a "Use" variance?
- Does the proposal put property to use in a reasonable manner? Why/Why not-
- 3. Is the owner's plight due to circumstances which are unique to the property and which are not self-created by the owner? Why/Why not-
- Is the variance in harmony with the purposes and intent of the ordinance?
   Why/Why not-
- Will the variance, if granted, alter the essential character of the locality? Why/Why not-
- Is the variance consistent with the comprehensive plan? Why/Why not-



# **Questions/Comments?**



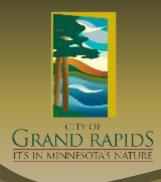


# **Public Hearing**

# Keystone Design Build Variance Request

PID: 91-028-3415 S 361.68' OF SE SW LESS W 631.68' & LESS REV DESC #3 & LESS E 177'

April 3, 2025



- Petitioners: Keystone Design Build
- Filing Date: March 13, 2025
- Requested Variances: The requested variance would permit the construction of a 30'x55' addition to the northwest side of the existing business. The addition extends 10' into the required 15' side yard setback.
- Relevant portions of Zoning Ordinance: Section 30-512 Table 2-A of the Municipal code, which lists minimum yard setbacks.
- Legally Described Property:
  - S 361.68' OF SE SW LESS W 631.68' & LESS REV DESC #3 & LESS E 177'

# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS ITS IN MINNESOTA'S NATURE

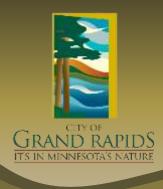
# **Variance Request**

# **Variance Details:**

#### The applicant describes:

- The unique size of the parcel and location of the property that abuts a street as a circumstance that was not created by the owner.
- The addition to the existing business is consistent with the current zoning and in harmony with the surrounding area.





## **Variance Details:**

- Subject property is a 2.3-acre parcel with an existing dental office. With the proposed addition the property will not exceed the maximum lot coverage of 30%.
- The closest point of the addition is 5' from the west property street ROW.





# **Summary of requested variance:**

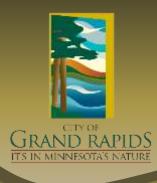
The proposed project would require the Planning Commission's approval of one variance:

1) Section 30-592 table 2-A of the Municipal Code, which list the required street side yard setback of 15' for General Business. This variance would permit the proposed addition at

a reduced setback of 5'.

TABLE 2-A DISTRI	OI DEVELOPMENT	REGULATIONS - PRINCIPAL STRUCTURES				
		MANUAL TOWNSHIP				

	MINIMUM LOT SIZE		MINIMUM YARD SETBACKS			MAXIMUM LOT COVER- AGES			BUILDING SIZES			
Zone	Gross Area	Area S/F Unit	Width	Front	Interior Side	Street Side	Rear	Building (percent- age)	Total Surface (percent- age)	GUOS Unit	Maximum Height (feet)	Minimum Dimension (feet) <sup>8</sup>
RR	1.25 acre	1.25 AC	150	30	15	30	30	20	N	/A	35	24
R-1	8,400	8,400	70	30	6-91	15	30	30	N	/A	30	24
R-1a	6,000	6,000	44	30	6	15	30	40	N	/A	30	24
R-2	$7,000^4$	5,000	$50^{4}$	30	6-91, 4	15	30	30	N/A		30	24
R-3	15,000 <sup>4</sup>	5,000	1004	35	$10^{4}$	15	35	30	75	400	30	24
R-4	15,0004	2,500	1004	35	204	30	35	35	75	400	45	24
LB	$14,000^4$	3,000	100 <sup>4</sup>	30	$10^{4}$	15	15	35	85	500	35	24
GB	10,500	3,000	75	30	10	15	10	40	90	500	50	24
CBD	7,000	3,000	50	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100	100	N/A	60	24
MU	40,000	2,500	100	35	20	30	35	40	75	N/A	45	24
$M^{2}$	20,000	3,000	100	30	10	15	15	35	85	500	35	24
RC	1.5 acre	1.5 acre	200	50	25	25	25	25	50	N/A	35	N/A
BP	30,000	N/A	150	50	15	25	15	40	85	N/A	35	24
I-1	1 acre	N/A	150	50	25	25	25	50	90	N/A	40	24
I-2	1 acre	N/A	150	$50^{2}$	25	$25^{2}$	25	60	90	N/A	110	N/A
PU	1 acre	N/A	50	30	10	15	30		N/A		60	N/A
CD	N	/A	50	50	50	50	50	N/A		N/A		
AG	2.5 acres	2.5 acres	50	50	50	50	50	N/A		N/A		
AP	N	/A	50	50	50	50	50	N/A		N/A		



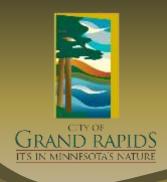
# Comprehensive Plan: Goals & Objectives related to Land Use

Goal 2: Promote commercial development that serves local and regional markets. A diversity of commercial land uses offers multiple benefits to residents and visitors and enhances economic sustainability.

- a. Recognize distinct classes of commercial development that serve different markets and are compatible within different land use and transportation contexts. Different commercial uses serve distinct markets and perform best when clustered with uses that serve similar markets or require similar infrastructure. For example, a large commercial use such as a retail store typically serves a broad market area, generates substantial traffic, and requires a large amount of surface parking. Therefore, siting is most appropriate along high-volume thoroughfares.
- b. Consider opportunities for commercial development at various scales. For example, neighborhood commercial uses provide for localized commercial development that meets the needs of a neighborhood population. Neighborhood commercial supports community vitality and sense of place. It is important to provide zoning flexibility, as well as adequate land and infrastructure, for business to thrive at various scales.
- c. Explore opportunities for the introduction of mixed-use into Grand Rapids land use planning, including all types of mixed-land uses. The inclusion of mixed uses improves access to a range of needs and varied lifestyles. Mixed-use also supports community goals for active living, encourages compact development, and stimulates more variety in community development styles.
- d. Consider opportunities to support local artisans, entrepreneurs, and home-based businesses through zoning tools and creative community partnerships. Grand Rapids seeks to cultivate a creative culture and encourage entrepreneurship. Planning and zoning should support these objectives – examples

Goal 1. Actively manage growth that provides supportive relationships between all land uses and assesses the potential location within the existing core or future growth areas. At its core, land use planning aims to develop synergy between supportive land uses and minimize harmful impacts between incompatible, or conflicting, land uses. The classic example of a land use conflict is a heavy industrial use that negatively impacts surrounding properties. Single-use zoning, setback requirements, and similar standards help avoid and mitigate potential nuisances and harmful spillover effects. On the other hand, mixing compatible uses helps foster active neighborhoods by connecting residents to jobs, activities, and one another. Grand Rapids seeks to provide a balanced land use mix and flexible planning to encourage a harmonious pattern of development. The City will evaluate the future land use, density, and intensity of proposed development, particularly as these relate to the existing neighborhood context and the Future Land Use Map.

- a. Ensure that development and redevelopment is orderly, following the guidance established within the Future Land Use Map. The Future Land Use map portrays the development and redevelopment patterns that are consistent with the Community Vision, Values and Principles. Implementing the pattern in a staged and efficient process will sustain the City's community, economic, and natural infrastructure.
- b. Reduce and eliminate land use conflicts within long-range planning and identify opportunities to create synergy among uses. Recognize conflicts and synergies in setting and administering land use regulation. Conflicts may include incompatible land uses where one property is impacted from the use of an adjacent lot. Look beyond the similarity of uses (i.e. small commercial and large commercial) to maximize synergies (i.e. small commercial and multifamily residential).
- c. Promote the best use of the land, from the community's long-term perspective, for conservation, new development, or redevelopment. The City will consider the long-term consequences of development decisions as well as the value of development proposals under today's market conditions. To promote conservation of existing natural areas, the City will consider the value of land in terms of the ecosystem services it provides including its productive value, recreational value, cultural value, and other environmental benefits.
- d. Assess opportunities and locations for growth both within new growth areas on the edges of the community and within the existing developed areas. The Comprehensive Plan guides growth to suitable locations within the City. New development and redevelopment should be sited in locations with adequate public services and utilities. Significant new developments, such as major subdivisions, should generally be located proximal to existing development. The City will evaluate the capability of land to support proposed development, ensuring adequate provision of roads, water, sewer, parking, stormwater management, and other supportive infrastructure.



# Planning Commission Variance Considerations:

# **Variance Request**

#### PLANNING COMMISSION

Considerations

#### VARIANCE

- 1. Is this an "Area" variance rather than a "Use" variance?
- Does the proposal put property to use in a reasonable manner? Why/Why not-
- 3. Is the owner's plight due to circumstances which are unique to the property and which are not self-created by the owner? Why/Why not-
- Is the variance in harmony with the purposes and intent of the ordinance?
   Why/Why not-
- Will the variance, if granted, alter the essential character of the locality? Why/Why not-
- Is the variance consistent with the comprehensive plan? Why/Why not-



# **Questions/Comments?**



# Planning Commission Staff Report

ITS IN MINNESOTAS NATORE							
Agenda Item #		ty Development partment	Date: 4/03/25				
Statement of Issue:	Consider initiating the process to review and amend Sec. 30-564 (23) Farm Animals of the Zoning Ordinance.						
Background:	Section 30.564 (23) establishes uses with restrictions specifically farm animals within established zoning districts.						
	(23) Farm animals (wit	arm animals (within AG, RR, SRR zone) provided:					
		tted non-domestic animals mu om escaping onto neighboring					
	b. Enclosed pens, correpermitted non-domes from the nearest lot line whichever is greater (spasture areas)."	ninimum of 25 feet structure setback,					
	It has come to the Dep number of animal unit have researched other language would addre	Ordinance. Staff					
	"Recognizing that resident incompatible, the following the	farm animals may be					
	c. On parcels of permitted.	farm animals is not					
	d. On parcels five	e to nine acres, three animal ur	nits are permitted.				
	e. On parcels or animal units plus one are allowed.	nine acres, three beyond nine acres					
	f. On all public waters, farm animal uses shall be setback 1 the ordinary high-water level. Farm animals shall not be contain shore impact zones, bluff impact zones or steep slopes.						
	g. Farm animal u	ding to below.					
	Animal	Animal Units					
	1 dairy cow	1.4 units					
	1 steer, heifer, horse	1.0 units (each)					
	1 swine	.4 units					
	1 sheep	.2 units"					

	Staff would like the Planning Commission to consider initiating the review and consideration of an amendment to section 30.564, changing the language to account for lot size and animal units as additional restrictions to section 30.564 (23).			
Considerations:				
Recommendation:	Pass a motion initiating the review of an amendment to Section 30-564 (23).			
Required Action:	Pass a motion initiating the review of an amendment to Section 30-564 (23) to the Zoning Ordinance.  Example Motion:  Motion by, second by Motion by, second by that, to (approve) (not approve) to initiate the review of an amendment to Section 30-564(23), adding additional language that restricts lot size and animal units.			
Attachments:				

