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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# **COVID-19-related changes impact future City of Rochester Planning & Zoning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals**

March 19, 2020 – Rochester, Minnesota – Due to the social distancing recommendations being implemented to help minimize the transmission of the novel Coronavirus, upcoming City of Rochester Planning and Zoning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals meetings will include a modified public hearing process. Where needed, there may also be a prioritization of applications and an extension of Minnesota Statute 15.99 to permit 120 days for development decisions.

## **Planning and Zoning Commission**

The March 25, 2020 Planning and Zoning Commission meeting has been cancelled. The commission will resume meeting as scheduled in April.

As noted, social distancing recommendations will impact the number of people in attendance at the meeting; as a result, applications will be limited to a manageable number to be presented at each meeting. Meeting rooms will be arranged to allow for a minimum of six feet of space between commissioners, city teammates, and other attendees. We will continue to revisit these protocols as public health recommendations are revised.

The in-person public hearing process will temporarily be replaced with a written public comment period. Those who wish to submit a public comment can do so through a written comment to the [Community Development Department](#). Public comments will be included in the Planning and Zoning Commission packets as well as the City Council packets.

In order to protect the health and wellness of the community, the public is strongly encouraged to view the April meeting via live stream on the [City of Rochester website](#).

## **Zoning Board of Appeals**

The April Zoning Board of Appeals meeting has been cancelled. The board will resume meeting as scheduled in May.

Depending on the duration of the novel Coronavirus pandemic, public comment for the May board meeting may need to be submitted via written comment. That decision will be made prior to the May meeting in time to allow residents time to provide public comment to the Community Development Department. Comments will be included in the Zoning Board of Appeals packets.

Meeting rooms may need to be arranged to allow for a minimum of six feet of space between board members, city teammates, and other attendees.

If the May meeting needs to be held virtually, the public is invited to view the May meeting via live stream on the City of Rochester website.

### **City Council Meetings**

Similar to the Planning and Zoning Commission meetings, residents who wish to make a public comment at the April 6 and April 20 City Council meetings can do so through written comment to the [Community Development Department](#).

### **Public Comment Submission**

Written comments must be submitted by 10 a.m. on the Tuesday prior to the respective commission or board meeting. Comments can be sent via email to [communitydevelopment@rochestermn.gov](mailto:communitydevelopment@rochestermn.gov) or via US Postal Service to "Community Development Department, 4100 West River Parkway NW, Rochester, MN 55901."

### **Meeting Attendance**

The media is invited to attend the meetings in person but must adhere to the six-foot social distancing requirement.

The public is invited to attend these meetings via [live stream](#).

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