MINUTES
OMAHA PLUMBING BOARD
Regular Meeting – Wednesday, September 26, 2018
1:30 pm – City/County Building – 1819 Farnam Street
Jesse Lowe Conference Room – Third Floor

Board Members:
Brian A Barrett
Jeff O. Estabrook, Vice-Chairman
Steve Johnston
David W. Miller, Chairman
Christopher P. Reed
Terry Salem
Amy L. Schaap
Russell Hadan, Douglas County Health Department (non-voting)
Jim Wonder, Chief Plumbing Inspector, City Planning Department (non-voting)

A current copy of the Open Meeting Act is posted in a white binder on the north wall of the Jesse Lowe Conference Room. The secretary certifies publication in the Daily Record, the official newspaper of the City of Omaha, on September 17, 2018.

Mr. Jeff Estabrook called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

I. Roll Call

   Brian Barrett
   Jeff Estabrook
   Steve Johnston
   David Miller – Absent
   Christopher Reed
   Terry Salem
   Amy Schaap – Absent

Others Present:
Jim Wonder, Chief Plumbing Inspector
Autumn Drickey, Board Secretary

II. Approval of Minutes from September 12, 2018

   Motion by Mr. Terry Salem to approve the minutes from the September 12, 2018 meeting. Second by Mr. Estabrook.

   AYES: Estabrook, Reed, Salem
   ABSTAIN: Barrett, Johnston

   Motion carried: 3-0-2, Approved
Ms. Moriah Brookshier and Mr. Sam Gregg appeared before the Board in regards to the above request at the above location. Ms. Brookshier stated that they currently have a unisex restroom and are requesting a waiver to keep the unisex restroom instead of having both men’s and women’s restrooms. Mr. Jim Wonder asked if this is due to the number of employees. Ms. Brookshier explained. Mr. Brian Barrett stated they have allowed this for salons. Mr. Chris Reed stated that the problem is with the number of employees. Mr. Reed clarified the unisex restroom layout. Mr. Salem asked about the business model. Ms. Brookshier explained the appointment model they utilize. Mr. Wonder stated what the code states. Mr. Wonder stated that the City has no objection to the request.

Motion by Mr. Reed to approve. Second by Mr. Salem.

AYES: Barrett, Estabrook, Johnston, Reed, Salem

Motion carried: 5-0, Approved

Mr. Jose Dionicio appeared before the Board for the above request. Mr. Wonder stated that the hardship is that there is no room on the outside of the building. Mr. Estabrook asked about the location. Mr. Dionicio stated that they are a ramen shop. Mr. Barrett asked about the other waiver they received and cleaning. Mr. Dionicio explained the pictures that he presented to the Board. He stated they are requesting a waiver for the grease interceptor. He explained the items used to cook. Mr. Reed asked about where he cooks the meat. Mr. Dionicio stated the cook them in the pots and on the bowls. Mr. Reed stated that the problem is in the space allowed in the alleys. Mr. Barrett stated that this is not a high grease producing restaurant. Mr. Wonder stated that a waiver would need to limit the request to this business.

Motion by Mr. Reed to approve the waiver of a grease interceptor at this business at this location based on the ramen noodle menu proposed, the fact that there are no friers in the space and no cooking of meat on grills or griddles. Second by Mr. Salem.

AYES: Barrett, Estabrook, Johnston, Reed, Salem

Motion carried: 5-0, Approved with conditions.
Mark Sanford  
1306 N 162 St  
Omaha, NE 68118

REQUEST  
To add toilet and lav for storm shelter restroom.  
Location: 1023 N 40 St  
49-708

No one appeared in regards to this case.

Motion by Mr. Salem to hold over to the end of the meeting in case someone appears and if not to hold it over to the October 10th meeting. Second by Mr. Estabrook.

AYES: Barrett, Estabrook, Johnston, Reed, Salem

Motion carried: 5-0, Held over to the end of the meeting or October 10th if no one appears

Bill Krajicek
8720 F St  
Omaha, NE 68127

REQUEST  
For waiver of grease interceptor  
Location: 11626 I St  
49-1130

Mr. Terry Tiemeyer and Mr. Rod Gigex appeared before the Board for this request. Mr. Wonder stated that the Public Works Department opposes this waiver and he backs that recommendation. Mr. Gigex stated that the problem is the amount of space. Mr. Reed asked for clarification of the request. Mr. Gigex stated that this is a tenant finish where they take the bones and make dog treats. He showed a drawing to the Board, explaining it. Mr. Estabrook asked about the interceptor. Mr. Gigex explained the model. Mr. Wonder stated that the objection is the same as with kitchen grease interceptors. There is discussion about the building and site plans. Mr. Wonder stated he would prefer to have a smaller interceptor instead of the two. Mr. Barrett stated that he didn’t have a problem with it now because it is not a traditional restaurant. There is discussion about a Schier model being used instead. Mr. Steve Johnston asked if this is a single occupant. Mr. Blue explained. Mr. Estabrook asked about the grease production. Mr. Estabrook asked about the Public Works recommendation. Mr. Wonder clarified. There is discussion about where it could be placed inside. Mr. Wonder discussed the higher flow rate and capacity of other options. He stated that if it is approved, it should be done with the stipulation of providing additional information to the Board. Mr. Barrett suggested other options they could try.

Motion by Mr. Reed to hold over to the October 10th meeting. Second by Mr. Salem.

AYES: Barrett, Estabrook, Johnston, Reed, Salem

Motion carried: 5-0, Held over to the October 10th meeting

Andrew Podraza
4940 N 118 St  
Omaha, NE 68164

REQUEST  
For waiver to install plastic, Schier grease interceptor inside the building  
Location: 2929 California St Ste 1015  
49-1120, 1000

Mr. Andrew Podraza appeared before the Board with the above request at the above address. Mr. Reed stated that he would be abstaining from the vote. Mr. Wonder stated he fully supports this waiver as this is the best alternative. Mr. Barrett asked about cleaning it out. Mr. Podraza stated that it is in the area of the trash and that a tanker has access.

Motion by Mr. Salem to approve a Schier tank at this location. Second by Mr. Estabrook.

AYES: Barrett, Estabrook, Johnston, Reed, Salem

Motion carried: 5-0, Approved
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>18-9-106</th>
<th>REQUEST</th>
<th>For approval to bypass the six month waiting period between exams</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ken Pringle</td>
<td>8426 Cedar St</td>
<td>Omaha, NE 68124</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mr. Ken Pringle appeared before the Board with the above request. Mr. Estabrook stated that they had a similar request at a previous meeting. Mr. Pringle explained the document he provided detailing his test scores. He stated that the code states if he is taking educational classes the Board can waive the waiting period. He stated that before the third and fourth attempts he took the capstone class and his scores improved dramatically. He stated that he is registered to take the capstone class pending this approval. Mr. Estabrook asked why he didn’t register for the class on the other attempts. Mr. Wonder explained. Mr. Estabrook stated that the code does allow for it, but it is up to the Board if they allow it or not, but regardless he would be taking all four parts of the exam. Mr. Pringle stated that he wants to keep it fresh in his mind as to taking the class because he has to take the entire exam. Mr. Barrett voiced concern about setting a precedent versus taking that out of the code. Mr. Wonder stated he doesn’t like being put in this position. He stated that the difference between this request and the previous request was that Mr. Pringle attempted each time whereas the previous request only took it before his fourth attempt.

Mr. Barrett stated that he sees a problem with trying to take the class after the attempts whereas he’s taken the class twice and still failed. Mr. Pringle stated that he would have wanted to take the class four times then he wouldn’t be sitting here. Mr. Barrett stated that he doesn’t necessarily think that he is guaranteed to pass given that he plans on doing the same thing for a third time. He voiced wanting to set the precedent and determine how they gauge the attempt to improve their education to pass the exam. Mr. Reed asked why the code is what it is. Mr. Wonder stated because the Board wants individuals to take the first four times seriously. Mr. Barrett recounted what he remembered about why things were set up the way they are. Mr. Wonder stated that they included this to allow for the Board to have some flexibility. Mr. Johnston asked what the problem might be with approving it. Mr. Barrett stated that there is currently only one person/provider set up to give a class for test prep, and the Board doesn’t want to start something where people see that they need to take this class to pass the test.

Motion by Mr. Reed to approve Mr. Pringle’s request to take the test in three (3) months based on additional educational efforts that he has taken.

Mr. Wonder posed the problem of what if Mr. Pringle fails, what happens to the six month wait. He cautions the wording of the motion so anyone is not able to request another six month waiver. Mr. Estabrook asked Mr. Pringle thinks about the waiting period. Mr. Pringle stated that he at least wants to take the class and take the test again while it’s fresh in his head. Mr. Barrett would like to have more time.

Mr. Reed withdrew his original motion.

Motion by Mr. Barrett to layover to the October 10th meeting. Second by Mr. Estabrook.

AYES: Barrett, Estabrook, Johnston, Reed, Salem

Motion carried: 5-0, Approved
Mr. Chris Reed appeared before the Board for the above request, he stated he will be abstaining from this and the next case. He presented a drawing and explained the situation. He explained the siphonic drains. He explained the sizing changes per code. He stated that at one location they are able to get to 10” pipe, however they would then want to waive the manhole requirement due to the air inlet. Mr. Wonder stated that for aesthetic purposes they want to change the size. He stated he denied that request. He explained the dual purpose of the manhole. There is discussion about the ability to clean it out.

There is discussion about options. Mr. Johnston asked about the vote requirement as Noddle is the developer.

Motion by Mr. Barrett to allow the siphonic to go into 10” open drain pending depth approval by Mr. Wonder. Second by Mr. Salem.

AYES: Barrett, Estabrook, Johnston, Salem
ABSTAIN: Reed

Motion carried: 4-0-1, Approved with stipulation of it being approved by Mr. Wonder.

Mr. Reed appeared and explained the building. He stated there is full dining in the building, but all residents have their own restrooms in their apartments. He stated that they want to waive the urinal and have all public restrooms be unisex. He stated that this is for health reasons and would allow for staff to use any restroom. He discussed the unisex restrooms on various floors. Mr. Barrett asked about waiver. Mr. Wonder stated that for this type of occupancy he does not oppose this request.

Motion by Mr. Barrett to approve the request for this facility at this time. Second by Mr. Salem.

AYES: Barrett, Estabrook, Johnston, Salem
ABSTAIN: Reed

Motion carried: 4-0-1, Approved

Mr. Todd Allgood appeared before the Board requesting the reinstatement of his Sewer Layer license. Mr. Estabrook stated that Mr. Allgood is current on his continuing education.

Motion by Mr. Reed to approve. Second by Mr. Salem

AYES: Barrett, Estabrook, Johnston, Reed, Salem

Motion carried: 5-0, Approved
Ms. Barbara Ingram, Mr. Brandon Louis, and Ms. Monique Louis appeared before the Board with the above request. Mr. Estabrook asked about the square footage. Ms. Ingram stated it is approximately 1800 square feet gross but just over 1500 square feet without the common areas. Mr. Wonder stated that the code is the gross square footage. Mr. Louis explained what they will be doing at the store. Ms. Ingram stated that customers are able to purchase. Mr. Reed clarified the request. Ms. Ingram confirmed that they wanted the request to have a unisex restroom as well as restricting public access in having that at the back of the space. Mr. Estabrook voiced his concern about having public access to restrooms. Mr. Barrett agreed that he would want the unisex restroom at the front. Mr. Louis stated that they’ve spoken to the landlord and he does not want a restroom in the front of the bay. Mr. Louis stated they will be installing a handwashing sink. Mr. Reed explained how they could also add the restroom. Mr. Louis stated that the restroom is existing in the back. Mr. Salem asked about seating in the front. Mr. Louis stated there is none in the front.

Ms. Ingram stated there are other locations in the city that do not have public access to restrooms. Mr. Wonder stated that there was a code change in 2003, but public access to the restroom has been in the code for decades. He stated that the Health Department won’t allow for the public to go through areas where food production is taking place. He stated that the Board has waived the unisex requirement but it must be in the front. Mr. Reed explained further including the employee requirement. Mr. Barrett stated there were only two cases he could think of where they allowed for the restriction of public access. Mr. Louis stated that the problem with having the restroom in the back is the wall that closes him off to the public. Mr. Barrett stated that the Health Department would never allow for the public to walk through that area. Mr. Louis stated that the landlord won’t allow them to put a restroom in the front of the bay. Mr. Salem stated that the landlord doesn’t tell the Health Department what to do. Mr. Wonder stated that the problem in allowing them this request then the businesses change, it creates a larger problem. Mr. Barrett explained how he understands the unisex restroom, but the restroom must be accessible to the public. Mr. Louis asked what the main problem is. Mr. Barrett stated the accessibility.

Motion by Mr. Reed to allow a unisex restroom for the proposed facility at this business and this business only with the stipulation that the restroom is accessible to both staff and public without passing through the kitchen production area.

AYES: Barrett, Estabrook, Johnston, Reed, Salem

Motion carried: 5-0, Approved with stipulations

No one appeared.

Motion by Mr. Salem to hold over to the October 10th meeting. Second by Mr. Johnston.

AYES: Barrett, Estabrook, Johnston, Reed, Salem

Motion carried: 5-0, Held over to the October 10th meeting
No one appeared. Mr. Estabrook stated everything is in order.

Motion by Mr. Salem to approve renewal of approved apprenticeship program. Second by Mr. Johnston.

AYES: Barrett, Estabrook, Johnston, Reed, Salem
Motion carried: 5-0, Approved

IV. *Apprenticeship Agreements

Mr. Keith Coltrane and Mr. Chris appeared before the Board requesting a July 13, 2018 start date to the Omaha Apprenticeship Program. Mr. Estabrook stated his documentation is in order.

Motion by Mr. Salem to approve Mr. Coltrane to the Omaha Apprenticeship Program with a start date of July 13, 2018. Second by Mr. Estabrook.

AYES: Barrett, Estabrook, Johnston, Reed, Salem
Motion carried: 5-0, Approved

Mr. Jacob Knapp appeared before the Board requesting a May 8, 2018 start date to the Omaha Apprenticeship Program. Mr. Estabrook stated that his paperwork is in order.

Motion by Mr. Salem to approve Mr. Knapp to the Omaha Apprenticeship Program with a start date of May 8, 2018. Second by Mr. Johnston.

AYES: Barrett, Estabrook, Johnston, Reed, Salem
Motion carried: 5-0, Approved
Mr. Kenneth Krise and Mr. Peter Blake appeared. Mr. Estabrook stated that his paperwork is in order. Mr. Krise detailed his experience in the plumbing field. Mr. Barrett asked about the possibility of just getting approved to take the Journeyman exam. Mr. Krise stated that he needs more time working in the code. Mr. Barrett explained the code to him.

Motion by Mr. Reed approve Mr. Krise to the Omaha Apprenticeship Program and recognizing the hours presented. Second by Mr. Salem.

AYES: Barrett, Estabrook, Johnston, Reed, Salem

Motion carried: 5-0, Approved

V. Discussion

Rare Birds Innovation – Ms. Ingram stated that the landlord has been emphatic about the fact that he doesn’t want the restroom in the front. She proposed having both restrooms and restricting public access. Mr. Louis proposed the problem of having a restroom at the front of the restroom. Mr. Wonder stated that the waiver has been given to other establishments. Mr. Reed stated they will not waive access to a restroom. Mr. Barrett stated that if they were just manufacturing the product to then sell the product elsewhere. Mr. Louis stated they have a five year lease. Mr. Salem stated that all are pending the City's approval. Mr. Barrett stated that it is unfortunate that they were not able to have this written in the lease. Mr. Louis asked about a tenant next to them that does this. Mr. Reed explained how things were caught. There is discussion about the food being a problem.

Jim Wonder – 2019 Plumbing Board Calendar.

Jim Wonder – Code for waiting between failed attempts. There is discussion about how there aren’t other options for test prep classes. There is discussion about what it means for beyond the test. There is discussion about removing that from the code. Mr. Barrett proposed taking that waiting period out of the code or creating a class that is approved. Mr. Reed asked what's wrong with taking that out. Mr. Wonder stated that it is to get people to take the test seriously. Mr. Salem stated staying consistent until the code is changed. Mr. Robert Woodard stated that he likes the waiting period because it makes people take it more seriously.

VI. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Salem to adjourn. Second by Mr. Johnston.

AYES: Barrett, Estabrook, Johnston, Reed, Salem

Motion carried: 5-0, Adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

*APPLICANT MUST BE PRESENT AT MEETING.*

A full, continually current agenda is available for public inspection in Room 1110 of the Omaha/Douglas Civic Center during normal business hours.

The Omaha Plumbing Board reserves the right to modify the agenda at the public meeting.

If alternative (tape) to the agenda is needed, please advise Jim Wonder. A 72-hour notice is required.

Visit the Planning Department’s Site on the Internet at [http://www.cityofomaha.org/planning/boards/plumbing-board](http://www.cityofomaha.org/planning/boards/plumbing-board)