



PLANNING COMMISSION

Brandon M. Scott
Mayor

Sean D. Davis, Chair; Eric Stephenson, Vice Chair

STAFF REPORT



Chris Ryer
Director

March 28, 2024

REQUEST: Street Closing/ Closing a portion of Falls Road – 4533 Falls Road

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

STAFF: Eric Tiso

PETITIONER: Two Farms, Inc.

OWNER: Two Farms, Inc.

SITE/GENERAL AREA

Site Conditions: The portion of right-of-way (ROW) to be closed is on the eastern side of Falls Road, adjacent to 4533 Falls Road, and has been partially improved by a paved surface.

General Area: This property is part of the Roland Park neighborhood, which is predominantly residential in character, with commercial uses along major corridors, and with institutional uses scattered throughout the neighborhood.

HISTORY

There are no previous legislative or Planning Commission actions regarding this site.

ANALYSIS

Background: The portion of right-of-way (ROW) to be closed has already been in practical use by the adjacent property for many years, and appears to be part of that property, even though it is technically part of the ROW. Closure and sale of this portion of the ROW will allow for that strip of land to be consolidated into the property formally. A proposal for the redevelopment of 4533 Falls Road will incorporate the expanded parcel into the redevelopment project.

The action before the Planning Commission is to determine whether the portion of right-of-way (ROW) is needed for public purpose, as part of its authority over the master plan of the City, which includes its streets. In this case, the portion of the ROW already appears to be a part of the site, and it is not needed to be part of the roadway or sidewalks of Falls Road. Staff notes that this part of the ROW is somewhat unique, in that the front parcel boundary of 4533 Falls Road is set back from the adjacent property front lot lines by a little over fifteen feet, which makes the ROW of Falls Road abnormally deep in this location, and for no obvious reason. Because of this condition, staff believes that the Planning Commission can find that there is no public need for that strip of land, and that it can be closed and sold.

Equity:

The closure and sale of this portion of the ROW will not affect the function of the existing Falls Road roadway. Aligning the front lot lines will allow for reasonable redevelopment of the property. There will not be any undue impacts to staff time or resources as part of this routine review.

Notification: The Roland Park Civic League, Medfield Community Association, and the Hampden Community Council have been notified of this action.



Chris Ryer
Director