



**CITY OF LONG LAKE
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
January 13, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. by Chair Crump.

Present: Committee Members Hultmann, Crump, Skjaret, Hoen and Loosen; City Councilmember Liz Olson; and Interim City Administrator Terry Post.

Absent: None.

APPROVE AGENDA

Commissioner Hultmann moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Loosen seconded. Ayes: all.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes of the December 9, 2008 Planning Commission Meeting

Commissioner Hultmann stated that during the approval of the minutes from the November Planning Commission meeting he made a comment about the quality of the minutes that he would like included with the December 9th minutes. The comment was that he thought the minutes were great from month to month and that the secretary was doing a wonderful job.

Commissioner Hoen stated that it should be noted that he was “absent with notice” from the December 9th meeting.

Commissioner Hultmann moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Loosen seconded. Ayes: all.

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Further Discussion of 2009 Work Plan Topics

Interim City Administrator Post stated that he would like more specific information in regard to the work plan discussion that took place at the December meeting. He explained that there is an absence of planning cases coming forward for review. He

reported to the Commission a few possible applications that may come before them in the next few months. He thought that the Commission should have a top three list of their priorities to work on in times such as these. He thought that the City Council could then review those to determine if the two groups are on the same page. He questioned if the Commission would like to put emphasis on the pedestrian safety in the downtown district.

Chair Crump thought that the commission had determined that the issue would need to wait for at least one year timing wise.

Commissioner Hultmann confirmed that the county turnback funds would not be available for that project until 2010 or 2011 at the earliest.

Interim City Administrator Post stated that with the bypass now open, the wait timing of the highway 12 stoplights had not yet been changed. He explained that the lights would need to be re-sequenced now that traffic levels have gone down.

Chair Crump thought that some things could be done to clean up the area that is now visible with that bypass open, such as cleaning up the backyard of the Public Works building. He thought that finishing up those items, such as planning to build a fence in that area should be added to the work plan for 2009.

Interim City Administrator Post will verify if the ordinances cover signage of the south backyards of Daniels Street industrial properties as well in regard to screening requirements.

Commissioner Hultmann thought that some of that property in question was owned by the State and did not know when it would be turned back over to the City. He thought that the auto salvage yard was the most obnoxious property in that area.

Commissioner Skjaret recognized that the pedestrian safety project would not have immediate funding but thought that the Commission should still continue to focus on that item as it may take some time to do the planning portion. He thought that there may be some challenges in the planning process.

Chair Crump advised that as the year goes along additional items would come up for discussion.

Interim City Administrator Post questioned which item should be the first to focus on.

Chair Crump thought that the Commission should focus on items as they are presented and as applications come through, and save the pedestrian safety planning for times that there is no other work to complete.

Interim City Administrator Post explained a possible application that may come forward in the future from the Kenny's Market property. He advised that if the proposed sale falls

through the owner would be moving forward on replacing the roof on the existing building. He advised that the site has some contamination issues from the fuel tanks that had previously been on the property.

B. Discussion of Awning Signage in the Industrial District

Interim City Administrator Post reviewed the staff report for the Planning Commission. He stated that the City Council and Planning Commission had previously discussed a projected type sign for Chunk's Automotive shop located in the district. He stated that in regard to the auto shop the current owner would like to replace the current sign with an awning type sign. He advised that the owner had come in with their subcontractor to discuss options and Staff did issue a sign permit for the property with the condition that the current wall sign is removed. He wanted to determine the direction from the Planning Commission should this situation develop again.

Chair Crump stated that signage on awnings is permitted; however the area of signage on the awning combined with the area of signage on the building cannot exceed the allowable area of signage on a building elevation. He advised that there are specific materials that could be used for awning type signs in the village district but did not know if those materials would extend into the industrial district.

Interim City Administrator did not know where the awning sign would fit within the current sign ordinance.

Chair Crump advised that it would not be a projected sign and would fit within the current zoning ordinance. He explained that the Commission does favor awning signs, as long as the correct materials are used, and setup the ordinance with such intent.

Commissioner Skjaret questioned if the current wall sign would be removed and how large the new awning sign would be.

Chair Crump noted that the existing wall sign would need to be removed to remain under the allowable area for signage.

Interim City Administrator Post explained that he just wanted clarification on the issue.

OTHER BUSINESS

Council Liaison Report

Councilmember Olson confirmed that the Metropolitan Council approved the Comprehensive Plan Update and questioned if changes to the zoning ordinances would need to be changed to match the plan.

Chair Crump explained that the necessary changes that needed to be made had already been done.

Commissioner Skjaret explained that the comprehensive plan primarily guides future development and advised that the zoning in the undeveloped areas would remain the same until redevelopment occurs.

Chair Crump welcomed the new Councilmember Olson to the Planning Commission meetings.

Commission Member Business

Commissioner Hultmann advised that tomorrow the Chamber of Commerce would be meeting with MnDOT to determine the signage for the highway.

Interim City Administrator Post advised a Thursday special meeting was also scheduled to discuss signage issues, as no one is happy with the current plan. He advised that Hennepin County Engineer Grube and Hennepin County Commissioner Callison would also be present at this meeting along with MnDOT representatives.

Commissioner Skjaret confirmed that the orange Wayzata/Orono sign was the sign in discussion. He stated the Wayzata Bay shopping center is planned to close in Wayzata and thought it would be a good opportunity to approach those businesses located in the center to see if they would be interested in relocating to Long Lake. He was unsure who would lead that project but thought the option should be looked into.

Commissioner Hultmann advised that he would mention that item at the Chamber of Commerce meeting tomorrow.

Commissioner Hoen questioned if there was any other discussion for a roundabout coming off of the highway.

Interim City Administrator Post advised that the City of Orono had hired an engineer to design preliminary roundabout plans. He advised that during the last MnDOT construction meeting it was mentioned that Wayzata Blvd from Wayzata would be opened soon but then was closed soon after the opening. He was unsure of the reason.

Commissioner Hultmann stated that Wayzata had wanted right in and right out for that location.

Interim City Administrator Post advised that while the roundabout would contribute to road safety and appearance, it would also help provide better access to properties near that intersection.

He stated that Staff and City Council would be planning a strategic planning session during the first quarter of 2009 to discuss the work plan for the City for the next 12 to 18 months to determine what goals Staff and the Council would be focusing on.

Commissioner Hultmann thanked Staff for the dinner provided to the Commission prior to the meeting. The other Commissioners gave their thanks as well.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Hultmann moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Commissioner Skjaret seconded. Ayes: all.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Post
Interim City Administrator