



MINUTES

JOINT CITY COUNCIL & PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

September 8, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm.

Present: Mayor: Randy Gilbert; Council: Sharon Henderson, Brian Carpenter, and Liz Olson
Planning Commissioners: Chair John Crump, Loren Hoen, Tim Hultman, Art Loosen, and Tom Skjaret

Staff Present: City Administrator: Terrance Post; Planning Consultant: Ann Perry

Absent: Councilmember Sam Rettinger (excused)

APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Loosen, seconded by Carpenter, to approve the Agenda as presented. Ayes: all.

APPROVE PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

A motion was made by Crump, seconded by Hoen, to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2009 Planning Commission meeting as presented. Ayes: all Planning Commissioners.

JOINT DISCUSSION ITEMS

Discussion Regarding "Green Technology" Zoning Considerations

Planning consultant Ann Perry led discussion about various zoning considerations as detailed in her September 4, 2009 memorandum on the subject. Specific topics discussed were: solar access, wind turbines (comments on adherence to PCA requirements, requiring engineering certification, and the use of a conditional use permit as a control mechanism if abandoned) dark sky techniques, exterior building materials (percent window transparency in PUD District and greater flexibility to allow other sustainable materials such as aluminum panels and coreten steel). Comments by the Council were generally supportive of the proposed Zoning Ordinance changes direction by the Planning Commission initiative in this area.

Other topics discussed related to the potential impacts of the Emerald Ash Borer on the City's ash tree population in terms of deforestation and efforts to plant replacement trees (possibly with the assistance of an organization like the Tree Trust) as well as consideration of dealing with different geothermal heating/cooling systems that potentially could involve neighborhood associations..

The group directed staff to not be as aggressive, from a timing standpoint, of implementing draft amendments to the Zoning Ordinance this fall and instead plan a possible future winter Saturday "Green Fair" activity with vendors, and possible participation by utility companies to expand public awareness, education, and involvement in the topic.

Discussion Regarding the Sign Ordinance

Planning Consultant Perry led discussion about potential changes to the Sign Ordinance as detailed in her September 8, 2009 memorandum on the subject. Discussion topics included the impact on businesses resulting from the TH 12 realignment and other "housekeeping" items (e.g. Ordinance inconsistencies, temporary signs, special events, and permits and enforcement).

Group discussion topics included the need for a sign mock-up or scale drawing when considering sign variance request situations, direction to clean up Ordinance inconsistencies, potential different techniques for determining allowable signage square footage such as a ratio of building square footage to property acreage, and the requirement for monument signs regardless of zoning district.

In order to develop a consistent vision for future signage requirements, or modifications to the existing Ordinance, Council members were encouraged to be aware and observant of both pylon and monument signage that they liked, and did not like, and provide this input to Council member Olson as the Planning Commission liaison so she could report back this input to the Planning Commission at the October 13, 2009 as that group further discusses this issue.

ADJOURN

Hearing no objection, Mayor Gilbert adjourned the meeting by general consent at 8:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrance Post
City Administrator