

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX
PLANNING COMMISSION
WORKSHOP MINUTES

Tuesday, October 15, 2020 - 7:00pm
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Present: Chairman Gerry Mrosła, Commissioners Scott Spisak, Jennifer Henry, and Kristina Smitten.

Citizens Present: Mayor Glen Mills and Councilwoman Gwen Roden.

Chairman Mrosła called the workshop to order at 7:01 p.m. He explained that the city council had requested that the commission narrow its scope regarding the review of the zoning ordinance. A draft with proposed changes was given to council in 2016, and council would like the commission to briefly review that before resubmission.

Wireless Communications and Solar

Wireless Communications — This is a very complex issue to regulate, and Commissioner Spisak is communicating with a consultant who could help Marine draft an ordinance. He expects to have a proposal within a week, which the commission will present to the city council for consideration.

Regarding 5G, the League of Minnesota Cities has a model ordinance for small cell systems (5G), and Commissioner Spisak believes an ordinance drafted in collaboration with a consultant would include that. For now, 5G is being rolled out in areas with higher population density because of the expense. Commissioner Smitten thought regulating 5G might be less complicated than other wireless communications, noting that May Township created their code using the League's model ordinance.

Solar — Commissioner Spisak would like to look at this issue further as the last draft was done in 2015, a long time ago in the world of solar technology. Brian Ross at the Great Plains Institute remains an authority in the field and Spisak believes it would be good to work with the Institute again.

Zoning Code

Request for Workshop with Council — Commissioner Smitten requested a workshop with the city council at some point in the future to talk about policy decisions. She is concerned with the idea of postponing revisions or additions to the code. Marine already spent a lot of time working with the Great Plains Institute on a solar ordinance and the city hasn't adopted it. She would like to move forward with a schedule and process for adoption.

Code: Items to Address Now

- Chickens — Suzanne will work with Lynette on adding a reference re: Chickens in the Single

Family Urban District;

- Vegetative Cuttings — Commissioner Henry will insert language;
- Driveway standards;
- Single Family (SF) detached definition – Chair Mrosla directed everyone to take a look at this;
- Marina – Commissioner Smitten will review her notes and send Gerry relevant info;
- Definitions – some are now updated; Steep Slope – Kristina is working on a definition and will send to Suzanne; Wetland – could use review by partners; STRs – good to go;
- Substandard Structures – Mrosla will look at that;
- 402.4 Poles, towers – done;
- 404.7 Refuse – done;
- 410.10 Seasonal Produce Signs – done;
- 502 Commissioner Spisak noted that the zoning map in the comp plan has an error in the “future use” of Rose’s addition. Correcting it would need to be done through the Met Council. Commissioner Smitten agreed that this should be addressed and asked if the city could send a letter to the area representative;
- Tree Preservation – was addressed by forestry;
- Variance Procedures – done.

Code: Items to Revisit Later

- Lot Area Requirements;
 - Solar;
 - Residential Care Facilities – the commission would need information from the city attorney;
 - Consistency with Comprehensive Plan;
- Commissioners Smitten and Spisak noted that these items should be addressed sooner rather than later.

Chairman Mrosla closed the workshop at 8:03 p.m.

Minutes taken by Suzanne Dammann, Assistant City Clerk.