

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX
PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES

Tuesday, February 23, 2021 - 7:30pm
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Present: Chairman Gerry Mrosla, Commissioners Tim Casey, Kristina Smitten, Jennifer Henry, Ed Sanderson. Absent: Ron Brenner, Anna Hagstrom.

Citizens present: Larry Martin, John Goodfellow, Councilmember Gwen Roden, Eric and Chrissi Larsen, Diane Mills.

Chairman Mrosla called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Conditional Use Permit request – Eric Larsen, 983 Rosabelle St.

The Larsens have requested a CUP for a bathroom on the second floor of the garage in plans for new home construction at the site. Chair Mrosla asked if two commissioners would volunteer to visit the site. Commissioner Casey volunteered and Chair Mrosla offered to help with the facts and findings paperwork remotely.

Commissioner Sanderson moved and Casey seconded to set the public hearing for March 30. Roll call vote: Mrosla – Aye; Smitten – Aye; Sanderson – Aye; Casey – Aye; Henry – inaudible due to technology. Motion passes.

Wireless Communications Ordinance progress update

- Work to Date: Commissioner Sanderson noted that draft 4G and 5G ordinances had been distributed for the commission's review. The consultant, Ms. Kehoe, lives in Texas where recent storms left most of the state without heat, water, or cellular access. This has delayed their communications on the ordinances. The committee does plan on talking with her to find out what municipalities are able to do around 1996 FCC regulations.
- The commission set the workshop with City Council for 6:30pm, March 16. The commission would like Ms. Kehoe to attend if possible, and would like to invite City Attorney Dave Snyder. If he cannot make the meeting, the committee would like a session with him for questions. The committee invites comments prior to the March 16 meeting so that they can be organized with questions and comments. They will have to move through two ordinances and it's a lot of information. Comments can be passed along through the assistant clerk.

Commissioner Casey asked whether the commission should define which districts are residential so there's no loophole. Smitten noted that the committee had questions for the consultant on that

language, and that this area might be different than communities the consultant has worked with in the past.

- Request for Proposals Process: The committee believes that as the city considers potential wireless sites and how to balance optimal locations with needs of the community, getting an early start on an RFP process help Marine drive the boat on what it wants to see – what the towers look like and where they're located rather than having just one provider and one set of options.

Smitten suggested inviting proposals once the ordinance is close to adoption. Some of the specifications may be recommendations rather than requirements at that time, but if the city waits until the ordinance is final we might not have as many options. For example, the city could say we would view a developer's proposal more favorably if they bring more providers.

New and Old Business

None.

Approval of minutes

January 26 Meeting

Smitten moved and Casey seconded approval of the minutes of the January 26 meeting. Roll call vote: Mroska — Aye; Smitten — Aye; Henry — Aye; Sanderson — Aye; Casey — Aye. Minutes approved as drafted.

Adjournment

Henry moved and Sanderson seconded to adjourn at 7:58 pm. Roll call vote: Mroska — Aye; Smitten — Aye; Sanderson — Aye; Casey — Aye; Henry — Aye; Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes taken by Suzanne Dammann, Assistant City Clerk.