



Planning Commission of Pine City, Minnesota

Minutes of Regular Meeting: 15 October 2019

Commissioners: Bombard, Christopherson, D'Aigle, Jahnz, LeMier, Pettie, Rydberg, Scholin, Skluzacek

City Staff / Officials: Sauter

Absent: Student Representative Chloe Johnson

Christopherson called the meeting to order at 6:30pm, with the Pledge of Allegiance. *Minutes of the September 24th meeting were approved as written on a motion by D'Aigle, seconded by Skluzacek.*

Shore Land Ordinance Amendment Update: Sauter gave the Commission an update on her efforts with the DNR to update the shore land portion of our MDO. They have made a few small suggestions on changes, and are looking at possibilities for a flexibility agreement on density. She is hoping to have some tentative agreement with them by next month.

MDO Amendment Proposals Discussion: Sauter reviewed the list of identified potential changes to our Ordinance, and which ones she has been concentrating her efforts on recently. She has three of the top items ready for comment by the Commission at this time.

Section 10.300.0220, Fencing and Retaining Walls, has a number of recommended changes to make the language easier to understand and to enforce. She reviewed these, and asked for comment. These rules have been better integrated into the landscaping section. There were a few questions, but no issues raised. Sauter will take these changes to the Council.

There is not much in the MDO related to pools or spas, and Sauter is recommending that definitions be added and zoning defined for such development. She has provided information from the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code, which we could potentially adopt, as well as draft changes to the MDO for Commission discussion. There were questions about what pools would be impacted, and those rules would be delineated in the Pool Code by depth and volume. There was concern expressed that pool development be done in such a way not to impact neighbors, at a minimum. Fences were also a concern, and that the cost of getting City permission to have a pool not be excessive. The consensus appeared to be that something should be drafted to make small pools permitted in some districts with a zoning permit, but with no CUP or similar process required. Sauter will take this to the Ordinance Review Committee next, with those concerns.

Our Ordinance parking regulations do not appear to address the ADA standards for accessible parking adequately. This has been a concern in some recent development. Sauter provided an ADA information sheet and some draft changes to Appendix C of the Ordinance for Commission discussion. The Commission felt this was positive, as it would help developers know what is required by federal law. Sauter will take this to Council.

Planning Commission Meeting Calendar Discussion: Sauter is proposing a change to the Commission's regularly-scheduled meeting dates for 2020. This proposal would move the meetings to the fourth, or in some months fifth, week of each month, making it easier to meet deadlines for consideration of applications, etc. She provided a draft of next year's schedule, including deadlines and dates for applications, notices, and meetings. *Skluzacek made a motion, seconded by D'Aigle, to adopt the draft 2020 schedule. The motion was passed unanimously.*

City Council Feedback: Scholin reported that the Council at its last meeting followed Commission recommendations to deny the Reiser subdivision request, amend the MDO's off-street parking and loading regulations, and give the Site Improvement Award to Northridge Outdoors and the Citizen Planner Award to Dawn Gibb. He also pointed out the new committee rules adopted several months ago, and how they may affect the Commission. Sauter stated that there should be a new student rep by next meeting.

Commissioners' Concerns: LeMier commented again about the pedestrian safety concerns with excessively wide streets in some areas and poorly-placed stop signs. She will provide a picture of what some other cities are doing about this concern.

Staff Comments: Sauter stated that the EDA met with Don Julio's this morning about a possible start-up loan, and the EDA and Council will meet jointly about that this week. She has nothing on a potential hotel, and is moving ahead on a housing study, despite small complications. The planning awards will be given out at the Chamber annual banquet on October 29th.

There being no further business, *Christopherson declared the Commission meeting adjourned at 7:23pm.*