

City of Marine on St. Croix
Planning Commission
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 30, 2005

Commission Members Present: Dan Willenbring, Carl Remick, Peter Fernstrum, Peter Marker, Jack Warren, Mike Zajac, Ron Brenner

Absent: Kim Jordahl and John Waugh

Citizens Present: Glen Mills, Kelley Blomberg

Agenda:

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Introduction of New Members
- 3) Group Discussion on Impervious Surface Issues
- 4) Old/New Business Approval of May 31, 2005 and June 28, 2005 Minutes
- 5) Adjournment

Chairman Willenbring called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

Chairman Willenbring introduced two new members of the Commission – Ron Brenner and Mike Zajac. Both members gave a brief statement regarding why they were interested in serving on the Commission and their history with the City.

After reviewing the meeting agenda, the group returned to the Impervious Surface issue. Dan shared the following information regarding the number of lots that would be affected should an 18% slope reduction be instituted throughout the City. Allan Brixius was the consultant who provided these figures. Presently 164 parcels out of 701 or 413 acres out of 2336 contain property that will be or already are affected by this limitation.

The conversation then turned to the information Carl had provided regarding View Shed. According to the material Carl provided, it is apparent from the research that the issue of View Shed is not related, nor should it be put in the same category as the issue of impervious surface. The Commission did agree, however, that at some time in the future, the term does need to have a better definition for inclusion in the Ordinances.

Jack Warren shared information he had from his conversation with Jim Almendinger of the Watershed Research Station regarding rainwater runoff and any contaminants as a result of the runoff. The conclusion at this time, however, without further monitoring, seems to be that the major contributors are more likely streets and TH 95 and not necessarily private property impervious surfaces. It is suggested that more study be done in this area and a recommendation was made that the city look into making the other monitoring station located at the entry of the stream into the city operational.

As the conversation turned back to the issue at hand (impervious surface) and the new members again questioned why this seemed to be an issue, Dan responded that the Commission felt that there was a need to apply restrictions in the districts on the west side of the highway similar to those districts on the east side. He then stated that the Commission could recommend some graduated scale of restriction such as: Properties utilizing up to 20% for impervious surface would require no variance; Properties utilizing 20-30% would need to submit a mitigation report supported by an engineer; and any property over 30% would need to come before the Commission seeking a variance.

After further discussion, several Commission members decided that they needed to have a better idea how many properties would be affected by any new restrictions. Mike Zajac also stated he felt the Commission should know if any of the properties were already over what might be proposed so that they would have a better understanding of the affect of their recommendation. As a first step, Dan is going to provide Ron Brenner with aerial maps of the city showing lot sizes, etc. to determine how many properties might be affected. If this does not provide them with sufficient information, the Commission members will contact approximately 20 property owners in order to do a "site visit" for information gathering.

Dan recommended that the Commission have a joint meeting with the City Council at their September 27 meeting to go over what information has been collected and what recommendations are being made. He will present this at the September 8th Council meeting.

Chairman Willenbring asked if there was any other new business. None at this time.

The Minutes from the May 31, 2005 Public Hearing were approved with the following changes. The following sentence on page 2, second paragraph “However, he would review both of these PUD’s to see if this issue was addressed” be eliminated. The word “corrosion” on page 3, paragraph seven be changed to “erosion”. The statement under work assignments “Jack Warren – work with Watershed group and Science Museum” be replaced to state “Jack Warren – work with Jim Almendinger of the Watershed Research Station”. Carl Remick moved and Peter Marker seconded the minutes be approved with corrections. Motion passed unanimously.

The Minutes from the June 28, 2005 Planning Commission meeting were approved with the following changes. Page 2, paragraph 3 states “He mentioned that Marine is too small to qualify for designation for having impaired water or having a protected water issue”. The sentence should read, “He mentioned that Marine is too small to be required to obtain a municipal storm water permit from the State – i.e., be under the State’s jurisdiction”.

The other change is on page 2, paragraph 5, which states, “Jack Warren reported he had visited with Jim Shaver who represents the City of Marine on the Watershed Management Organization”. The sentence should read, “Jack Warren reported he had visited with Jim Almendinger of the Watershed Research Station”. Jack Warren moved and Carl Remick seconded the minutes be approved with corrections. Motion passed unanimously.

Peter Marker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Carl Remick seconded. Motion passed to adjourn at 9:02 p.m.