

City of Marine on St. Croix
Planning Commission Meeting
Tuesday, March 29, 2016

The City of Marine on St. Croix Planning Commission meeting of September 29, 2015 was called to order by Acting Chairman Brenner at 7:30pm. Warren, Spisak, Roden, and Smitten present. Mroska and Ritz absent.

Citizens Present: None

1. Call to Order 7:30pm.
2. Review of Definitions
3. Solar Discussion
4. Approval of Minutes
4. Old/New Business
5. Adjournment

Review of Definitions ó The Commission reviewed more of the definitions. A few changes were made to the open space and official map definitions, and the definition for Motel was removed completely. There are a few words added earlier in the process that will require definitions, and it was suggested that the Commission look at those outside of the meeting time to help save time.

Solar ó Spisak had a discussion with a representative from Great Plains Institute to discuss ordinances for ground mount and rooftop solar panels. Scandia's solar ordinance was looked at and there were several issues discovered with various areas of their ordinance. Smitten presented a draft ordinance several months ago that the Commission simplified down to a one page draft, however there are some concerns that draft may be too narrow and the Commission should have further discussions. Spisak has some ideas for fencing that he would also like to see included in the ordinance. Smitten and Spisak will meet to discuss and will bring back to the Commission within the next month or two.

Approval of Minutes ó *Warren moved and Roden seconded the approval of the February 23, 2016 Minutes as drafted. Motion passed unanimously.*

Old/New Business ó Discussion was held on the proposed moratorium being discussed by the City Council. The Council would like the Planning Commission to look at the property in the upcoming months and consider what options the City may have.

Pabst Subdivision Update ó The City Attorney offered two opinions for how to handle this request, the first being a conservation easement from Pabst to the park for the pond area and the second option would be to handle the subdivision as a variance using strong and distinct findings, very specific to that property and the minnow ponds, to avoid any future problems.

Mrosła was going to talk to Mr. Pabst about these options and wait to hear his decision on how to proceed.

Warren questioned whether the Commission would be interested in a workshop in lieu of the April meeting. The City Clerk will update the Commission as to whether there are any other agenda items prior to making that decision.

Roden noted that there are grant opportunities through the SEED program that will allow the local businesses to improve recycling efforts. As part of this program, the idea of screening or fencing of the garbage and recycling containers is being discussed and Roden questioned if this might be a discussion for the Commission. Warren suggested that would probably be a discussion for the Village Center Task Force more than the Commission. Further discussion was held on the location of the screening, as there are issues with some of the property being owned by MnDOT and the City and some owned by private property owners.

Adjournment –Spisak moved and Warren seconded to adjourn at 9:16pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes by Lynette Peterson, City Clerk

PLANNING COMMISSION TERMS - Jack Warren 12/31/2018, Joyce Ritz, Gwen Roden, Gerry Mrosła, Ron Brenner – 12/31/2016, Scott Spisak, Kristina Smitten - Expires 12/31/2017