

City of Marine on St. Croix
Joint Planning Commission and Council Meeting
Tuesday, July 26, 2011

The City of Marine on St. Croix Planning Commission meeting of July 26, 2011 was called to order by Acting Planning Commission Chairman Warren at 7:35pm. Roden, Brenner, Mroska, Creager and Smitten present. Willenbring Absent. Council members present Mayor Mills, Marker, Benson, Mowery and Miller

Citizens Present: Jason DeMoe - Country Messenger, Nancy Cosgriff, Tod Drescher, Andy & Karen Kramer, Mary Vogel, Chuck Arnason

Agenda:

1. Call to Order 7:30pm
2. Village Center Task Force - Presentation
3. Old/New Business:
 - Watershed District –Future action: Review and Adopt all or part of the Water shed District Plan into the Comprehensive Plan
 - T-Mobile update
4. Approval of May 31, 2011 minutes
5. Review Codes in the SFR, SFU, SCR, SCU, VC Districts – Moved to next meeting
6. Adjournment

Village Center Task Force – Presentation

Warren acknowledged this will be the second meeting regarding the Village Center Task Force. Council member Benson first introduced the Village Center Task Force at the May 2011 Planning Commission meeting and explained the purpose was to preserve and grow vitality to the Village Center A presentation was given by Tod Drescher that included the ideas that would improve the Village Center in regards to the guiding four principles. Warren noted the Planning Commission asked the Task Force to meet with the stakeholders and provide feedback. The Planning Commission is to evaluate that the concept is consistent the Comprehensive Plan. The Village Center Task force is looking for a formal recommendation of support from the Planning Commission at this July 26, 2011 meeting to bring it before the City Council.

Council member Karl Benson explained how the Village Center Task Force came about and the four driving factors behind the Task force. The Village Task Force was formed by dialog with conversations regarding the roads and people talking about what is going to happen with Judd Street. The concern was people didn't want to see Judd Street just ground up and resurfaced with Judd Street getting any wider. Several of the business in town meet with their concerns and coordinated a plan that would fit into the Comprehensive Plan and could be used as context and dialog while moving forward into the future. The following are the four guiding principles and some illustrative examples:

1. History: Promote identity/Character of Historic Village –
 - Examples: preserve building integrity; install small town street lights; bury power lines; have historical info/maps available, incorporate historic sites/concepts when possible.
2. River: Steward/Preserve water quality and provide River Access
 - Examples: Water management of outfalls-quantity, flow, sediment into river/stream/pond; visible “entry ways” to river; riverfront/place cleanup.

3. Green Space: Provide Both Attractive and Functional Areas –
 - Examples: Grass, trees, rain gardens, green areas for water management, parks, streetscapes; walking trail loop through Village Center.
4. Community: Promote Community Interaction and Business Viability
 - Examples: Attract people towards focal intersection of Maple/Judd and draw to gathering places in 4 directions; walking/biking/paddling friendly-cross walks, bike/canoe racks; parking for events.
 - Business Community-Services for residents/visitors, e.g. restrooms; clear/limited signage; ample vehicle parking; service vehicle accommodations.

Tod Drescher – Presentation: Marine Concept Plan Map (attached)

Mr. Drescher was able to acquire aerial digital survey maps dated April of 2000 of Marine on St. Croix. The property lines were just updated as of last fall. The information gave the street right of ways and contour lines. Mr. Drescher showed the path of the runoff water that has been affecting business on Judd Street coming from Highway 95. Several of the businesses have been experience water issues in their businesses. After an inspection of the drainage and culverts on Highway 95 during a rain storm the Village Center Task force was surprised to see the runoff on the north end moves down Highway 95 across Oak Street before flowing down Judd Street. The culverts along Highway 95 that should be directing the runoff away did not seem to collect much of anything. Another issue brought to light was the runoff through the culverts that shows all the debris, sediment, oils and silt gets put directly with no retention into the Mill Pond silts up the Mill Pond. Mr. Drescher noted and also explained the city has a lot of pavement. A one hundred foot radius at intersection of Maple and Judd fifty five feet was measured just to cross Judd Street. A concern is the distance pedestrians have to cross the road.

Introduced was the drawing of the Concept Plan Map of the Village Center including future Ideas. The drawing showed the different ideas that could be used to improve the run off concerns. At the north end of Judd Street it shows closing off Judd Street at Linden and creating rain gardens to intercept and handle storm water. This would also slow the traffic on Main Street. An idea to widen Linden Street would provide for parking and traffic flow. The suggestion of angle parking along Judd Street would allow for more parking. A fire hydrant on the north end of town would also be included. Regarding Parker Street change it to one way and create 15 minute parking for trucks and trailers. This would also allow more green space for the Village Plaza for use by farmer's markets and such. Green space is also included in the roadway that can absorb water. The sidewalk along the waterfalls fence on the east side of Judd would be extended to draw people toward Burris Park. This would also include additional no parking for use of the fire department that would be the width of the fire hall. Rest rooms could also be included down by Burris Park. A history place by the Mill Site along with improvement of the paths could pull more people toward the river. The intersection of Maple and Third Street noted on the plan as River Gate. This area is designed to stop the water and create rain gardens where the water can be treated and mitigated before flowing to the river. The removal of the septic station and electric pole would give better access and create more green space and provide a transition to access the river. Cedar fences to cover the dumpsters within the city and lighting would also make the city more attractive and free up more area for parking.

Council member Benson noted this is a contextual document to lay the ground work for future conversation in years to come.

Smitten moved and Creager seconded. Having reviewed the Village Center Concept Plan as presented July 26, 2011, the Planning Commission finds the plan and its guiding principles generally consistent with the 2008 Comprehensive Plan and further finds that it describes desirable implementations of the Plan specific to the Village Center, and therefore recommends that the City Council initiate the incorporation of this concept plan into the Marine on St. Croix Comprehensive Plan.

Warren noted that previous Comprehensive Plan's regarding the Village Center had suffered for a lack of follow up. He asked for input from Commission, Council and attendees about successful methods of creating continuing action. A general discussion noted that some municipalities had paid staff to provide continuity and others had business groups.

Old/New Business:

Watershed District –Future action: Review and Adopt all or part of the Water shed District Plan into the Comprehensive Plan. Assistant City Clerk Tomnitz explained that the City Council would like the Planning Commission to review the Watershed District Plan and recommend the adoption of all or part of plan into the Marine on St. Croix Comprehensive Plan. Mayor Mill is concerned with how detailed the information is, and recommends the Planning Commission should look very closely at the documents before they recommend to the City Council. Council member Miller noted that when the Comprehensive Plan was put into place there was no Watershed District information included. Miller also had some concerns regarding the burdens that would be put on the land owner. Warren noted that the Planning Commission is in the process of reviewing Zoning Ordinance for inconsistencies and this is something they can take care of. The adoption of this plan needs to be done by the end of 2011.

T-Mobile update: - Mayor Mills noted that Amy Dresch has approved the sight and has check with the emergency frequency. Council member Miller noted that T-Mobile and AT&T are merging and there have been some regulatory issues that need to be settled and hopefully this will be done by the end of the year so this can move forward.

Approval of Minutes *Smitten moved and Brenner seconded to accept the May 31, 2011, Planning Commission Minutes as drafted with corrections in Old/New business regarding 575 Judd Street. Line seven; correct the spelling for the word “intensions” to “intentions”. Line eight, replace the month of “May” with “March”. Line nine; insert the word “wording” after Plan. Line ten, correct the spelling in the word “steam” to read “stem”. Line fifteen, add a period after river and delete the words “along with the streetscape”. Line sixteen, change the word “replace” with “replaced”. Replace the sentence that starts with “Theses concerns” with the sentence “Willenbring and Warren feel their concerns regarding streetscape and riveway were met.” Page two under Variance Bill Discussion, line four; replace the word “would” with “could”. Under Village Center update line thirteen insert the word “asked” after “Willenbring” change the word “the” to “they” and insert “Task Force” after the word “they” Motion Passed unanimously.*

Review of Codes in the SFR, SFU, SCR, SCU, VC Districts. – Postponed till next Planning Commission meeting.

Warren noted the Planning Commissions appreciation of the attendance of the City Council member at the Planning Commission meeting.

Adjournment: *Mroska moved and Roden seconded to adjourn the July 26, 2011 Planning Commission meeting at 8:57pm. Motion passed unanimously.*

Minutes taken by Mary Tomnitz, Assistant City Clerk