

VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT
PLANNING COMMISSION
APRIL 9, 2018

The Regular Meeting of the Planning Commission held at 442 N. Grand Street was called to order by Chairperson Pfof at 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Chairperson Pfof, Gunnett, Schmitt, Doorn, Bergland, Hendriksma (7:05 p.m.).

Absent: Rozeboom.

Also Present: Village Manager Cheri Lutz and Sue Moore.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Gunnett, seconded by Schmitt, to approve the agenda as presented. All aye.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Schmitt, seconded by Doorn, to approve the minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Planning Commission & Village Council held on March 12, 2018. All aye.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairperson Pfof had the following comments:

- She asked for suggestions regarding the approach for zoning ordinance updates. Do we look at it as a whole, or do we divide it up according to interests and expertise of planning commissioners.
- She stated there are a number of inconsistencies in the existing zoning ordinances, and definitions need to be updated and strengthened.

Commissioner Schmitt had the following comments:

- He wants Wightman to advise the Planning Commission on the how's and why's of what they should do.
- He wants the zoning ordinances to be more readable and understandable.
- He wants them to be written in more "down to earth" language.
- He wants Wightman to research other communities to see what they have done when updating their zoning ordinances.
- He stated we need to take a look at our zoning ordinance districts.
- He stated he would like to note what the thinking of the Planning Commission is in 2018, then the zoning ordinances are changed.

Commissioner Doorn would like to have citizens comment on their likes and dislikes.

Commissioner Gunnett wants a preliminary cost estimate from Wightman.

Commissioner Hendriksma feels the document is not user friendly.

By general consensus, the Planning Commission would like to see what the recommendations for the zoning ordinance update from Wightman will be.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Commissioner Gunnett expressed his disturbance regarding recent inappropriate communications with a business owner outside of a Planning Commission meeting. He stressed the importance of how communication from the Planning Commission should take place outside the Planning Commission Meetings, and that commissioners need to follow the chain of command when discussing Planning Commission business. He feels that providing information to the public that has not been agreed upon by the entire Planning Commission is inappropriate, and the only two people that should be speaking on the behalf of the Planning Commission at any time are Chairperson Pfof, and Village Manager Cheri Lutz.

He added that this recent incident created a great deal of stress for both the business owner, and the Village Manager. He stated the issue should have been handled differently, and that the Village Manager took unnecessary hits due to comments that were made outside the Planning Commission meeting. He cautioned the Planning Commission to follow the chain of command when asked about municipal activities.

UPDATE ON VILLAGE ACTIVITIES: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Mae Pfof, Chairperson

Cheri M. Lutz, Recording Secretary

