

PLANNING COMMISSION CITY OF WABASHA

Minutes of the February 08, 2011 meeting:

COMMISSION MEMBERS: John Friedmeyer, Chair Claire Abbott
 Jim Niemantsverdriet Charles Bricher
 Ron Benson Brian Wodele
 (1) Vacancy

STAFF PRESENT: Molly Patterson-Lundgren, City Planner
 Phil Rosendale, Zoning Administrator
 Patty Heraty, Administrative Assistant

The regular meeting of the Wabasha Planning Commission was held on Tuesday, February 08, 2011 and was called to order by Commissioner Friedmeyer at 7:02 pm.

Roll call found all members present.

Commissioners Abbott and Benson moved to approve the January 11, 2011 regular minutes as presented. Approved unanimously.

Changes/Additions – Commissioner Niemantsverdriet requested discussion/comments be added after the sign report re the open field between the condos and NEC.

It was decided by unanimous consent to move election of BOA officers after new business.

Item 6A – Potential changes to the Tower Ordinance.

Jim Ireland from US Cable has requested the commission consider changes to the current Tower Ordinance. Molly provided commissioners with a copy of the proposed changes. The changes were presented to the City Council at the 2/1/11 council meeting for review. Mr. Ireland was in attendance and stated that U.S. Cable would like to replace their current tower located at 8 Buena Vista Drive; however, the current ordinance would not allow it because guy wires are prohibited; height requirements and setback requirements. The current tower is 300 feet, the proposed new tower is 200 feet tall with guy wires that are need to keep the tower stable. The new tower will be used to accommodate the co-location of a cell-phone provider.

Commissioners discussed the proposed changes to sections 335.03 Subd 1B; 335.03 Subd 1F. Discussion included the location, type of tower, the use of guy wires, co-location, and the height of the tower. After all discussion Commissioners Bricher and Wodele offered the following motion and moved for its approval. Adopted unanimously.

Planning Commission approves the following changes to the Tower Ordinance and recommends City Council approval.

1. Remove section 335.03 subd 1- B “New towers shall be of a self supporting “
2. Add revised section 335.03 subd 1 – G “All towers shall be set back a distance equal to at least one hundred twenty-five percent (125%) of the tower height from the lot lines, any public road right of way, unless written permission is granted by the governmental entity with jurisdiction over the road, and any overhead utility lines, unless written permission is granted by the affected utility. Lesser setbacks will be considered by the Planning Commission when the applicant provides documentation that an easement from adjacent properties has been secured which would equal a 125% of the tower height setback;”

It was decided by unanimous consent to move the election of BOA officers until a full board is present.

Molly introduced Dave Oschner who was observing from the audience as a potential commission member.

Item 6B – 2011 Goals and Priority projects. Molly provided a list of projects the commission currently has to work on in 2011. Commissioners discussed the list and added member training to the list of priorities for this year.

Item 6C – Bike and Pedestrian route planning – Requested by the Street Commission. Molly provided a presentation on sidewalk plans and trails on Wabasha’s south side and requested the commission’s feedback. The plan was requested by the Street Dept. to coincide with the current street paving project planning for 2011.

Item 7A – Changes to Zoning Ordinance – Grading & Excavation: It was decided by unanimous consent to move discussion of excavation to next month’s agenda.

New signage report– Car Quest has new signage.

Commissioner Niemantsverdriet brought forward for discussion the River Currents article by Mike Smith in the Wabasha Herald last week regarding the city’s vacant land and expressed his objection to the article.

Commissioner Abbott stated that the Isaac Walton League would like to speak with Molly regarding green cities.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2011.

Having no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm. by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted by:

Patty Heraty, Administrative Assistant