



STANWOOD PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

August 13, 2018

Call to Order

Chair Utgard called the meeting to order at 6:30PM with the following Commissioners present: Steve Shepro, Lance Dennis and Darren Robb. Commissioners Marcus Metz and Randy Heagle were excused. Elected Officials and Staff present; City Council Member Diane White, Community Development Director Patricia Love, Senior Planner Amy Rusko, and Planning Commission Clerk Devin Sola. Known public in attendance: Cathy Wooten, Peggy Wendell.

Public Requests or Comments

Cathy Wooten, 27828 84th AVE NW, Stanwood. Commented that she felt very lucky that this is a small town and make small town decisions versus decisions big cities make. Thanked the Commissioners and staff for their services and involvement. Added that the people who live here have big hearts and are willing to listen to other's perspectives.

Minutes

The minutes of the July 23, 2018 meeting were approved as corrected.

Motion. Motion by Commissioner Dennis second by Commissioner Shepro to approve the minutes of July 23, 2018 as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Public Hearing on Industrial Zone Performance Standards Code Amendment

Chair Utgard opened the public hearing.

Director Love explained that this was moved to the beginning of tonight's agenda and gave the staff report. There have been four meetings before the Commission on this and reviewed changes to the ordinance over the past several meetings. Ms. Love explained the Findings of Facts and Conclusions.

Public Comment:

Cathy Wooten, 27828 84th AVE NW, Stanwood. Supports code amendment and read submitted comments to staff including that this process began in 2016, the nuisance code.

Ms. Love said that she will be on vacation the next two weeks. The August 27, 2018 Commission meeting is cancelled. This ordinance will go before City Council at their second meeting in September and finalized in October pending any changes by Council.

Commissioners stated support for this process moving forward.

Approval of Final Plat Findings of Fact and Conclusions

Ms. Love informed the Commission that at the last Planning Commission meeting the Commissioners agreed unanimously to approve as an administrative decision. The Council's Community Development Committee reviewed this and there are larger issues having to do with

the preliminary process and construction phase. The City Council is not ready to act on this and requested more information from staff. Staff will conduct further research and come back to the Commission and rework the process. The Planning Commission agreed.

New Business

Off-Site Signage Discussion: Identify Issues of Importance to Commission

Ms. Love reviewed excerpts from the municipal code regarding offsite signage. Tonight's discussion is to determine what issues are important to the Commission. Ms. Love explained variance language and background information that preceded this topic regarding a coffee shop with no frontage on Main Street and cannot advertise on 271st. Ms. Love explained off-site signage rules.

The Commission discussed the following:

- Snow goose Signs – scale, design, history of wayfinding signage program
- Directional signs, Directional markers
- Eye Clutter
- Enforcement issues
- Signs in town still reflecting closed businesses

Ms. Love stated that she has spoken with the coffee shop owners and plans to meet them again in September.

The Planning Commission continued discussion on:

- A-board / Portable signs
- Possible proliferation of snow geese signs in town (phase plan – information/history)

Cathy Wooten, 27828 84th AVE NW, Stanwood. Added that Kim's Cut and Above had expressed a willingness to sell a spot on her monument sign off 271st and would be willing to help the coffee shop out with advertising that way.

Ms. Love answered that there is specific code language for that and it must be for businesses on the premises.

Peggy Wendell, 27305 83rd Ave NW, Stanwood. Inquired if off-site signage could be allowed on a case by case basis regarding distance. Ms. Love answered that cannot be allowed do to equity issues.

Planning Commission discussed:

- Uniformity of signage
- Directional signage
- History of wayfinding signage

Small Cell Code Amendment Discussion

Ms. Love introduced the code amendment and gave background regarding the process and lobbying efforts and reviewed the attached articles in the staff report. There have been huge changes in the cell tower industry. People's habits regarding cell phone and land line usage have been changing over several years. Cell towers were great for cell and phone service, but people are now using data in larger quantities. Cell tower companies are now combining efforts to lobby in order to restrict a city's ability to regulate. It is important for cities to have the ability to regulate as they have control over the right-of-ways and should have control over aesthetics in the city. This industry changes fast and future amendments may be necessary. Ms. Love explained that

cities have the right to issue franchises in the right-of-way and these are a source of city revenue. Ms. Love stated that the Commission will be working on this at future meetings and provided Commissioners with additional handouts showing visuals of towers and small cell technology mounted on utility and street lights.

The Commission discussed:

- City standards – design aesthetics
- Annual fee charged by city in franchise agreements and which city funds they go to
- Liabilities (damage from weather)
- Franchise agreements – permitting, bonding, insurance, compensation, aesthetics, etc.
- Solar or hard-wired
- Wave franchise
- Cell towers can be made to look like trees, blend into surroundings
- Negotiate free Wi-Fi for public spaces in franchises

Commissioner Robb inserted that the County has just changed their cell code language and his understanding was that everyone was happy what they had come up with.

Commissioners discussed decommission issues, the City has a large urban area now and may be difficult to disguise poles / cell towers as trees, City can get ahead of issue, but cannot restrict (regulate vs. impede).

Miscellaneous Business

- New Thai restaurant in town at Viking Village
- New Taco place at former Farmer's Café location

No Public Comments

No Recent Council Action on Commission Items

Upcoming Items

- August 27, 2018 Planning Commission meeting - CANCELLED

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:45PM.

Devin M. Sola, City of Stanwood