

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members  
Planning Commission Members  
FROM: Paul Kenaga, Building Official/Zoning Administrator  
DATE: April 3 2014  
RE: Planning Commission Minutes

The Planning Commission met at 5:15 p.m., on Tuesday, April 1, 2014, in the City Council Chambers at City Hall. The following members were present: Don Smith, Jerry Steffes, Patty Dockendorff, Linda Larson, Richard Wieser, Dave Hanifl and Ex-officio members John Graf, Shawn Wetterlin and Bill Waller. Paul Kenaga was also in attendance

1. Meeting was called to order by Chairman Smith and roll call taken. . The minutes of March 4th, 2014 Planning Commission Meeting, were approved as written by the consensus of the Planning Commission.
2. Informal discussion was has with the contractor who wants to expand the house at 864 Shore Acres Road and the Planning Commission. The application was not turned in on time to be reviewed for completeness. The applicant was offered an informal meeting with the Plan Commission. It was pointed out that without knowing where the 50 foot setback mark is; it is impossible to determine exactly what the variance application is for. The applicants agreed that they would have a surveyor determine the setback line and submit the material that it can be reviewed and forwarded to the DNR for their review and be declared a complete application prior to the next meeting.
3. The Planning Commission were given a copy of the La Crescent Zoning Ordinance, 2818, TREE AND WOODLAND PRESERVATION IN RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT, Subdivision 2, Minimization of Impact. *“Prior to the granting of a building permit, the person seeking the permit must demonstrate that there are no feasible or prudent alternatives to the cutting of trees on the site. If trees are to be removed, the developer must restore the trees to the density that existed before the development was begun,”*

This topic was brought up because a building site on Horse Thief Ridge was recently clear cut for a house site and there is obvious and continuous tree removal on other lots. Dan Brodilan from the La Crescent Township Board attended the meeting and said the township was concerned as well. Enforcement is a challenge. He agreed a note expressing concern to the Town Board would be helpful. Preserving the Environment including bluff views was a main concern

identified by citizens during the Minnesota Design Team visit. The view of the bluff from below is being modified in violation of established ordinances was the opinion of the Planning Commission. A letter will be sent to express concern.

4. The Planning Commission had discussion concerning Attorney Wieser's response to the City Council concerning amending the comprehensive plan. It was the consensus of the Planning Commission that there is a process of amending the comprehensive plan and that process should be followed.

5. The Planning Commission added an item "Information concerning the Event Center" to the agenda for discussion.

Dick Wieser gave a presentation and update concerning the proposed "Event Center."

6. Motion by Steffes, seconded by Wieser to call for a special Planning Commission meeting September 8, 2014 at 5:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall.

Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted in favor of the motion as proposed.

This special meeting will not be to select but to have a conversation concerning the vision of the City of La Crescent. Three different groups will present their concept for assisted living, independent living and memory care.

Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted in favor of the motion as proposed.

7. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:20 p.m.

Saved as minutes of April 1, 2014 Planning Commission.