



CITY OF LA CRESCENT

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TO: Planning Commission Members
Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
FROM: Shawn Wetterlin, Building/Zoning Official
DATE: March 6, 2019
RE: Meeting Minutes from March 5, 2019

The regular scheduled monthly meeting of the Planning Commission met at 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 in the City Council Chambers at City Hall. The following members were present: Jerry Steffes, Linda Larson, Dave Hanifl, Anna Stoecklein, Patti Dockendorff, Richard Wieser and Jason Ludwigson. Also present was City Council Member Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner, City Attorney Skip Wieser, and Building/Zoning Official Shawn Wetterlin.

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair Steffes. Motion by Larson, seconded by Hanifl to approve of the meeting minutes of February 6th, 2019.

Upon a roll call vote, taken and tallied by the Building Official, all members present voted in favor.

Hanifl – Yes
Larson-Yes
Dockendorff – Yes
Ludwigson – Yes
Stoecklein – Yes
Steffes – Yes
Wieser – Yes

2. The Planning Commission held a public meeting to consider the application for a variance to allow for a new free standing sign to be five feet from the right-of-way when the sign ordinance states freestanding signs shall not be placed closer than ten feet from street right-of-way. The request concerns certain premises situate in said City described as follows, to wit: Parcel number 25.1153.000 Houston County, MN better known as 509 North Chestnut, La Crescent, MN.

Chairman Steffes called the public hearing to order and stated the case to be heard.

City Attorney Skip Wieser gave a staff report.

James Fuchsel with La Crosse Sign represented his client's case.

The public meeting closed as no member of the public wished to be heard on the matter.

Motion by Ludwigson, seconded by Hanifl to approve the variance request with the following conditions:

- a. The Applicant will abide by all representations made by the applicant or their agents made during the permitting process, to the extent those representations were not negated by the Planning Commission or City Council and to the extent they are not inconsistent with the spirit or letter of explicit conditions of the variance request.
- b. The Applicant complies with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations.

Upon a roll call vote, taken and tallied by the Building Official, all present members voted in favor.

Ludwigson – Yes
Dockendorff – Yes
Stoecklein – Yes
Hanifl – Yes
Larson – Yes
Wieser - Abstain
Steffes – Yes

In recommending that the motion be approved, the Planning Commission referenced the following findings of fact:

1. The variance request is in harmony with the general purposes and intent of the ordinance.
 2. The variance is consistent with the comprehensive plan and sign ordinance.
 3. The property owner proposes to use the property in a reasonable manner.
 4. The Best Western Plus Hotel is adjacent to the highway with highway visibility.
 5. This is a reasonable request since the property abuts the highway.
 6. The sign will be placed on the highway side of the property.
3. The Planning Commission called for a special meeting and a public hearing on March 19th at 5:15 p.m. for Sign Ordinance text amendments.

Upon a roll call vote, taken and tallied by the Building Official, all members present voted in favor.

Hanifl – Yes
Larson-Yes
Dockendorff – Yes
Ludwigson – Yes
Stoecklein – Yes
Wieser - Yes

Steffes – Yes

4. The Planning Commission discussed residents that are willing to serving on the Bike Pedestrian committee.

Motion by Wieser, seconded by Hanifl to recommend to the City Council the following Planning Commission members and residents serve on the Bike Pedestrian committee.

Planning Commission members:

Jason Ludwigson would serve as chair

Linda Larson

Anna Stoecklein

Residents:

Maseray Severn

Kristen Plummer

Upon a roll call vote, taken and tallied by the Building Official, all present members voted in favor.

Ludwigson – Yes

Dockendorff – Yes

Stoecklein – Yes

Hanifl – Yes

Larson – Yes

Wieser - Yes

Steffes – Yes

5. The Planning Commission discussed a 2019 Plan of Work, reviewing the Comprehensive Plan implementation and action plan. It was consensus that the Planning Commission to review the Comprehensive Plan to come up with ideas for the 2019 Plan of Work and have Comprehensive Plan action items 4-13 #3, 4-7 #7, 4-11 #11 and 4-10 #13 be completed by the City's Green Team.

Motion by Ludwigson, seconded by Larson to adjourn the meeting. All in attendance voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.