

Plan Commission Study Group Minutes
Wednesday, February 3, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.
Paul J. Bertschinger Community Center
7860 Hwy 42, Egg Harbor, Wisconsin

Present: Kim Jensen-Chair, Chris Anderson, Clarence & Mary Anne Scherer, Kevin Vonck-UWGB
Planning Consultant, Richard Wegner, Kim Jensen, Gail Hill, Bill Cammack-by phone

Absent: Orren "Brad" Bradley, Karen Peterson

Also Present: Nancy Fisher, Dave Callsen, Bruce Hill, Kaaren Northrop

1. Call Meeting to Order
Chair- Jensen called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of the Agenda
Mary Anne Scherer moved to approve the agenda as presented. Hill seconded. Motion carried.
4. Approval of Plan Commission Study Group Meeting Minutes for January 26, 2010.
M.A. Scherer moved to approve the Plan Commission Study Group meeting minutes for January 26, 2010, Wegner seconded. Motion carried.
5. Open Session (limited to 10 minutes)
Jensen opened comments to the public. It was inquired why a permit is needed regarding §155.03(A), Sign Permits, Applications and Fees. It was stated that the intent is to determine conforming and nonconforming signs to comply. It was discussed by others present that enforcement seemed to be an issue, not the ordinance itself and it was considered whether absolute enforcement should be recommended to the Plan Commission. It was suggested that this be brought up at the upcoming Village Board meeting. It was indicated by those present that if the majority of business owners support the ordinances then changes aren't necessary, but if the majority did not support the ordinances, then changes should be discussed. It was affirmed that in the past, the majority of businesses supported the ordinances to keep signs in compliance and continue the aesthetically quaint look of the Village. The intent and purpose of the ordinances, as well as the evidence and who it serves was discussed at great length. It was stated that an overwritten ordinance can invite violations unintentionally. Several present felt that the ordinances were clearly written. The amount of the violation fee was discussed. It was suggested that the sign ordinance be simplified, summarize, clearly written and handed out to all businesses to follow for compliance. The subject of Grandfathered signs being in compliance and the possibility of a future termination date was conversed. It was felt that by adopting a future year for conforming to the sign ordinance, it would adequately give grandfathered business owners time to comply and bring all into compliance.
6. Sign and Zoning code review and discussion
Discussion on signs permits and the sign ordinance §155, Sign Regulations, was discussed at great length by Plan Commission Study Group.
The PC Study group suggested that the ordinances be clarified and enforced. The sandwich board sign regulations were suggested to be reworked for winter with definite requirements, specifying the aesthetic look.
The ongoing open-flag issue was brought up and conferred on. The discussion led to a new flag design or a different style open sign.
Many issues were discussed by the Plan Commission Study Group as they reviewed each section of §155.

Vonck presented the Plan Commission Study Group with the downtown planning strategy to get things accomplished.

- 1) Education
- 2) Fiscal taxes, fines, enforcement has come up
- 3) Rules, regulations, ordinances (clarification)
- 4) Management (What does the Village body need to do to move forward-enforcement)

Vonck suggested the following with the sign ordinance:

- 1) Size of the public building frontage be in proportion to the signs.
- 2) Guidelines for coming before the Plan Commission/Village Board for sign to submit an application and picture

Possible Recommendation 1: A possible recommendation to go before the Plan Commission was for open/closed wood signs to be allowed, allowing 2-3 adjoining signs, each one proportionate in size hanging under the other, with the option of using the flag or the signs. If both the open-flag and adjoined signs are used, then only the flag and two signs adjoining would be allowed. Fisher stated that she would like to see Merrell Runquist come up with an example of a sign like this for the April or May meeting.

Possible Recommendation 2: There will be no written signs allowed.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting date, time and place were scheduled for Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at 2:00 p.m. at the Paul J. Bertschinger Community Center.

8. Adjourn

Mary Anne Scherer moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. Hill seconded. Motion carried.

Recorded by,
Kelly A. Popp
Deputy Clerk/Administrative Assistant