

**CITY OF ISANTI
PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
July 8, 2008**

1. Meeting Opening

A. Call to Order

Chair Duncan called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

All rose for the pledge of allegiance.

C. Roll Call

Members present: Dave Englund, Ralph Johnson, Jeff Kolb, Ross Lorinser, Steven Rask, Jeff Duncan and Sean Stevens.

Members absent: none.

Staff present: Lisa Krause, City Planner and Trudi Breuninger, Administrative Assistant

D. Agenda Modifications

None.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Johnson, second by Kolb to approve the meeting minutes of June 10, 2008. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Public Hearings

A. Request for Final Plat Approval by RWL Properties, LLC for the creation of a Common Interest Community for the existing industrial building located at 101 Isanti Parkway NE.

Motion by Johnson, second by Rask to approve the Final CIC Plat for RWL Properties LLC, which would permit the subdivision and creation of a Common Interest Community for the existing industrial building located at 101 Isanti Parkway NE, with the condition that the petitioner shall address any comments, concerns or additional requirements as provided or requested by the City Administrator or City Engineer. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Other Business

A. Nuisance Ordinance – Enforcement Issues.

Chief Sager explained that the department is finding it very difficult for one person working fifteen hours a week to enforce the ordinances fairly throughout the community. As CSO goes to a property that has received a complaint the complainant points out other properties in the area that are also in violation therefore he feels he is being singled out. Chief suggested that other restrictions be added to the ordinance such as: 14 days then move it or seasonal for the item, limit size or fence in area. It was also suggested that a large sweep of the entire city be done of all violations, as other cities do.

Discussion on the time and dollars spent to regulate nuisances regarding trailers, boats, campers, etc. could be better spent on more of an “eye sore” nuisances such as garbage and old refrigerators left out in the yards. What constitutes an eye sore for one person may not bother others therefore they discussed that the vehicle/trailer would have to be currently licensed, operable, free of debris and within a size limit. In addition, restricting one unit to side yard on impervious surface and one unit in the front and to eliminate outside storage.

Chief described the process they take: upon receipt of complaint the CSO reviews the property and sends out a letter, if they do not comply within the stated time frame they receive a citation and then the abatement process begins. The abatement process: the city would hold a public hearing if it is decided at the public hearing to abate the property the Police Department would have the vehicle or property towed away. The property owner would receive a bill for the removal and assessed if not paid. In addition the property owner would still have to go to court for the citation, pay the fine and will have a criminal record. So it would not be a beneficial way for the property owner to have the vehicle removed from the property.

Commission recommends changing on the Exhibit A chart in ordinance 397: Size limit max size of 20 feet, under time allowed change to seasonal and number allowed to 1 in front and 1 in side or back yard on an impervious surface. Also within the ordinance stipulate free of debris, currently licensed and operable and mobile. Forward to City Council to call for a public hearing to change ordinance as recommended.

Chief Sager thanked the commission stating it would be a huge help to the Police Department.

B. An ordinance amending Ordinance No. 176: Zoning Ordinance, Section 4, 5 and as well as any other associated Sections, to include provisions for Detached Accessory Garages.

Krause stated that the City Council reviewed the ordinance at the June 17th, 2008 meeting and sent back to Planning Commission for further consideration relating to definitions. Krause stated the issue is the access to the accessory structure without driving on the neighbor’s property.

Discussion on the changes made to the ordinance addressing ‘useable lot area’ within each district and the setbacks that apply. Using the neighbor’s property to gain access to the accessory building would be a trespassing issue and didn’t feel it should be addressed in the ordinance. It was suggested that if the property owner does not have enough side yard to access the back yard that the existing garage be converted into a pass through type garage.

Motion by Johnson, second by Kolb to recommend the acceptance of the changes to ordinance amending ordinance 176 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Discussion Items

A. Business-Industrial Subcommittee Update

Krause stated the group discussed permitting farming as an interim use within the Industrial District. In addition, the group reviewed definitions for Light versus Heavy Industrial Uses. The group continued their discussions regarding the parking issues within the downtown area as well as the overlay district that has been proposed. The group would like to have a joint discussion

with the Downtown Committee regarding these two items. The next meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, July 22nd at 8:00 a.m.

B. Housing Task Force Update

Krause stated the group reviewed the draft ordinance language for Planned Unit Developments. The group had requested additional information and examples for density bonuses. The next meeting has been scheduled for Monday, July 21st at 4:30 p.m.

C. Joint Training Session – League of Minnesota Cities

Krause encouraged the Planning Commission to attend a Joint Training Session with the League of Minnesota Cities to be held at Isanti City Hall on July 29th at 6:00 p.m. Neighboring townships and cities as well as the county have also been invited to attend. The skills and knowledge obtained through these workshops benefits the community, particularly when members are faced with making policy and planning recommendations and decisions.

6. Adjournment

Motion by Johnson, second by Kolb to adjourn Planning Commission meeting at 7:45 p.m., motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Trudi Breuninger
Administrative Assistant