

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

September 24, 2007

7:00 P.M.

DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE (DP&Z)

Joint meeting:

DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE
and PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

- 1) Environmental and Sustainability Initiatives

Following joint meeting:

DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

- 2) Zoning Ordinance Regulation of Electronic Signs – Moving Image Signs
Continued discussion from 9/10/07
- 3) Review of C4A North Downtown Business District Yard Requirements
Continued discussion from 9/10/07
- 4) Review of Side Yard Requirements
Referred by City Council 9/04/07

Committee Members Present: (DP&Z) Rose, Leader, Gutenkauf
(PA&S) Mulliner, Bram, Nybo

City Staff Present: Borchert, Said, Streicher, Neubauer, Kopp, Bacidore, Doherty

Elected Officials Present: Mayor Marcucci

Chairmen Rose and Mulliner called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. Introductions were made. This will be the first joint meeting on this issue of environmental and sustainability initiatives and at least one more will be scheduled. Discussion began with a review of the issue, the work of the previous commission and various sustainability ideas were discussed, including smart cars, hybrid vehicles, green roofs, stormwater collection and recycling. Also discussed was the Cool Cities initiative. Alderman Bram asked for a review of the former environmental commission. Chairman Rose and City Manager Borchert stated that recycling was their major thrust, and once that goal was accomplished, the commission was abolished. Committee members discussed whether a new environmental commission should be created as one option. Other options for addressing environmental issues and sustainability practices were discussed, including the development of a broad policy/mission statement and refinement of the issues to be discussed. City Manager Borchert stated that Dennis Streicher has been asked to be the Sustainability Coordinator for the City and a

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staff Sustainability Committee has been established. Representatives of the League of Women Voters and the American Association of University Women also spoke in support of the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. The Mayor's signing of the Climate Protection Agreement was discussed. The signing of a sustainability agreement will be recommended to the City Council as soon as possible accompanied by a report to be prepared by staff. There will be another joint committee meeting on October 22nd, if the schedule allows, to follow up on this discussion.

The joint meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m., after which the Development, Planning and Zoning Committee convened at 8:35 p.m. to continue their discussion of electronic message center signs. Brief discussion took place regarding current sign regulations and possible code changes. The Committee asked staff to bring in an outside sign consultant with a working knowledge of sign technology for further discussion. This item was then continued to the next available meeting date of the DP&Z Committee.

The Committee then began their continued discussion of C4A yard requirements. Chairman Rose mentioned that we already have control of yard requirements in this district through the C4A design review process. The Committee report will not suggest any change in policy, but will acknowledge the need for sidewalk improvements in key areas. The Committee will provide a report to the City Council to be placed on the Consent Agenda summarizing this topic.

The Committee then began discussion on side yard requirements. Alderman Moriarty provided background and stated her concerns including safety and emergency access. Chief Kopp stated that no safety issue exists as far as access to the home's side or rear yards and added that they would never drive a fire truck around the home to the rear yard. Alderman Moriarty added that she believes that property values may be affected by side yard obstructions and that water runoff may be affected, although no evidence was presented to support these assertions. There were several architects and builders present and they voiced their objections to increasing the required side yard requirements due to a number of complications. Committee members also noted that any change to current requirements would result in many existing homes becoming legal non-conforming. Committee members believed this would be problematic for residents. After further discussion, the Committee thanked Alderman Moriarty for her efforts and agreed with her request to keep this issue on the pending items list in order to revisit it in six to eight months.

Under Other Business, the Committee discussed having dialogue with the Zoning and Planning Commission regarding previous cases. Staff will develop some possible meeting scenarios for the two groups.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Submitted by John D. Said, Director, Department of Planning, Zoning and Economic Development