



Regular Meeting of the Planning Commission

Tuesday October 11, 2016

7:00 p.m.

1307 Cloquet Ave, Cloquet, MN 55720

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Attending: Planning Commission members: Chuck Buscher, Michael Haubner, Bryan Bosto, Kelly Johnson, John Sanders and Uriah Wilkinson; City: Al Cottingham.

Absent: Commission members: Jesse Berglund.

Others Present: Tim Grahek, Cindy Haglin and Robert Atkins.

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None.

AGENDA ITEMS

September 13, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Chairperson Wilkinson asked for any corrections or additions.

Motion: **Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the Planning Commission meeting minutes from September 13, 2016, Commissioner Sanders seconded. (Motion was approved 6-0).**

Zoning Case 16-15:Annual Gravel Pit Renewals

Chairperson Wilkinson announced Zoning Case 16-15, Annual Gravel Pit Renewals. He asked Mr. Cottingham to provide an overview of the topic. Mr. Cottingham noted that this is not a public hearing. He noted this is the annual approval of the excavation permit for the four gravel pits that currently are in operation within the city. He noted the location of the four pits, the inspections that were conducted by staff and that they had found everything to be in order.

Commissioner Sanders inquired as to the slopes at the KGM pit and if they were Ok.

Mr. Cottingham noted the slopes were Ok and that vegetation was growing on the slopes.



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Motion: Commissioner Johnson made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 16-15, A Resolution Recommending the City council of Cloquet Approve the Annual Excavation Permits for 2017, Commissioner Buscher seconded. (Motion was approved 6-0)

Mr. Cottingham noted this item would be forwarded to the City Council for their October 18, 2016 meeting.

Zoning Case 16-18: Conditional Use Permit, Friends of Animals

Chairperson Wilkinson reviewed the public hearing procedures and format and opened the public hearing for Zoning Case 16-18, Conditional Use Permit for Friends of Animals. He asked Mr. Cottingham to provide an overview of the topic. Mr. Cottingham noted that this is a public hearing with a legal notice published in the Pine Journal on September 29, 2016 and property owners within 350 feet were sent notice of the meeting. Friends of Animals is proposing a conditional use permit to allow a humane society in the Light Industry District. The property is located at 1001 Avenue B. He also noted that staff had determined that this use was similar to other conditional uses in the Light Industry District based on what was recently amended in the Office/Manufacturing District.

Chairman Wilkinson asked if anyone would like to speak on this item.

Ms. Cindy Haglin, Director, Friends of Animals noted this is a shelter/impound for animals. It allows them space that they need to operate a safe facility and this building more than doubles their space. They appreciated the concerns about the noise from the train and its impacts on the animals. She tested the noise on the existing facility with the dogs barking and it was about 110 dB. She also tested the inside of the new facility when a train was going by sounding its whistle and it was about 90 dB, while outside without the whistle it was about 95 dB.

Commissioner Johnson inquired as to how often the dogs would be outside.

Ms. Haglin noted they are typically outside four times while the facilities are being cleaned. They would like to figure out the operating times of the trains so they can be out when the trains are not coming by.

Commissioner Sanders inquired as to where they would be walking the dogs and about the outside kennels.

Ms. Haglin noted they might walk them at Veterans Park or on the north side of the railroad tracts. She didn't know the area really good so they would be looking into different areas.



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Mr. Robert Atkins stated there were approximately 10 kennels that would be moved to the site. They were trying to acquire additional property to the east of the parking lot that is owned by the railroad. If the purchase that property they would look to locate them there and install some screening from the property to the east if not then they would be on the west side of their parking area.

Chairman Wilkinson asked if anyone else wished to speak and since nobody wished to he closed the public hearing.

The Commission discussed the site and the proposed facility and whether it met the conditional use criteria.

Motion: Commissioner Johnson made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 16-18, A Resolution Recommending the City Council Approve the Conditional Use Permit for Friends of Animals for a Humane Society in the Light Industry District. Commissioner Bosto seconded. (Motion was approved 6-0).

Mr. Cottingham noted this item would be forwarded to the City Council for their October 18, 2016 meeting.

November Meeting Date

Mr. Cottingham noted that the November meeting falls on election day and we could not meet until after the election. He is suggesting that the meeting be moved to Wednesday, November 9th. The consensus of the Commission was that was Ok. Commissioner Bosto noted he would be out of town that week so he would not be in attendance.

Commissioner's Questions/Comment

Mr. Cottingham noted that Kwik Trip would be opening around October 20th with a ribbon cutting on the 27th. Also Med Express would be remodeling the south end of the Lumber Jack Mall for a new medical clinic. They are working on changing the grades of the parking lot between the mall and Armory Road to help with handicap access to the building.

Next Meeting

November 9, 2016

Meeting adjourned 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Cottingham, City Planner/Zoning Administrator