

**MINUTES
PEQUOT LAKES PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
MAY 16, 2013**

PRESENT: Deb Brown, James Oraskovich, Cheri Seils, Scott Snyder, and Wesley Wilson. ABSENT: Mark Hallan and J. J. Levenske

CITY PLANNER: Justin Burslie, Community Growth Institute

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR: Dawn Bittner

COUNCIL LIAISON: Tyler Gardner

The meeting was called to order by Chair Seils at 6:00 p.m.

GATEWAY DISCUSSION:

Mr. Burslie explained the last few months we have discussed the CSAH 11 Gateway; this month we will begin discussion of the existing Highway 371 Gateway. There is a distinct difference between a street and a roadway.

The City will need to increase revenue along the roadway to meet the maintenance needs. The Staff Report identified private properties that could be redeveloped to generate revenue. The properties along the roadway could be given the adjacent excess right-of-way.

Mr. Burslie pointed out the information in the Staff Report which explained making a street out of a road and then showed a short video of a speech made by Charles Marohn explaining same.

A motion was made by Scott Snyder, seconded by Deb Brown, to forward the draft Memo to the Crow Wing County Highway Department regarding the CSAH 11 Gateway to the City Council. All members voted "aye". Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA: None.

OPEN FORUM:

Mark Jurchen, representing the Chamber and the Economic Development Committee, stopped in for the discussion on the Gateway. He was informed that it had already taken place and was invited to attend upcoming meetings to discuss the other Gateways and turnbacks. Mr. Jurchen stated he was encouraged to see the County's willingness to look at an interchange on CSAH 11.

As a personal comment, he sees the south area of Highway 371 for more commercial development. He also thanked the members for serving on the Planning Commission, stating it is a thankless job.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by James Oraskovich, seconded by Scott Snyder, to approve the April 18, 2013 Minutes, as read. All members voted “aye”. Motion carried.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

Bittner explained the 3 Land Use Permits issued in April as well as the 9 letters written. The following Potential Violations/Enforcement Actions were discussed:

1. Virgil Dahl – Bittner informed the Planning Commission that Chief Klang is attempting to make contact with Mr. Dahl. After speaking with Mr. Dahl, Staff will discuss options for enforcement.
2. Pestello Car Lot – Exterior storage has been cleaned up.
3. Nathan Walberg – It appears there are additional vehicles.

Planning Commission Member Oraskovich reported that he attended the May 7 City Council meeting as Liaison. The Council heard a report from the City Engineer regarding street improvements to North Washington Avenue. One Council Member stated that diagonal parking, not parallel parking, is needed in this area. Parking is more important than landscaping; bump outs should be put further up the block. The City Engineer will provide the design and the Council will make the final decision.

Mr. Burslie stated bump outs shorten the distance between the two sides of the street for pedestrians. Planning Commission Members noted bump outs help define diagonal parking.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Scott Snyder, seconded by James Oraskovich, to adjourn the meeting. All members voted “aye”. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Bittner
Zoning Administrator