



**MINUTES  
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING  
April 12, 2011**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Chair Crump.

Present: Committee Members Kelley, Crump, Hughes and Stephenson; City Councilmember Skjaret; Mayor Hultmann; City Administrator, Terry Post; and Recording Secretary, Amanda Staple.

Absent: Committee Member Loosen (excused)

**APPROVE AGENDA**

*Commissioner Kelley moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Hughes seconded. Ayes: all.*

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Minutes of the March 8, 2011 Planning Commission Meeting**

*Commissioner Kelley moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Stephenson seconded. Ayes: all.*

**OPEN CORRESPONDENCE**

Chair Crump invited residents to come forward at this time and address the Planning Commission on items that are not on the regular agenda.

Mayor Hultmann advised that the Daniels Street Insurance Salvage Services business has left and that the property is now up for lease or sale and is now vacant. He noted that four parties are interested in the property and two of those interested parties would like to store boats at the location, including the owners of Elite Auto. He advised that City planning consultant Ann Perry stated that allowing boat storage would require minor language changes in the uses portion of the current ordinance for this zoning district. He advised that the Planning Commission may be reviewing language changes to allow for boat storage at this location.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. No New Land Use Application Submittals to Discuss**

City Administrator Post noted that although there were no land use application submittals at this meeting, there would be an application to review at the May meeting for an expansion request from the Long Lake Assisted Living facility.

Chair Crump believed that the issue of parking along Brown Road should also be discussed in conjunction with this planning case.

**B. Progress Report from Green Technology Subcommittee**

Commissioner Kelley provided an update on the Green Technology Subcommittee. She noted that discussion included solar and wind systems that may be likely uses in the City of Long Lake.

Chair Crump noted that the company they visited had discussed problems that had arisen with green technology in other cities.

Commissioner Kelley noted that some of those problems had to do with location of the green technology and the aesthetics.

Chair Crump questioned if a budget item was available to use towards the cost of planning consultant Perry to draft ordinance language.

City Administrator Post confirmed that funds were budgeted in the Planning & Zoning Department for professional services, including the City Attorney to review proposed language changes.

Chair Crump questioned the scope of green technologies that the Commission should incorporate into the ordinance, such as whether sustainable lifestyles should be included which could cover such things as crop production. He noted that small scale livestock could also be addressed and believed both items should restrict commercial sale.

City Administrator Post believed that the Commission should focus on green technology rather than sustainable lifestyles as he believed the two issues to be separate issues and doubted that there would be sufficient time to develop both concepts within the work plan deliverable time period target to the Council.

Councilmember Skjaret noted that he would bring that question forward to the Council at the meeting the following week. He believed the direction was to focus on green technology and agreed that sustainable lifestyles could be the next step for the process.

Commissioner Hughes questioned whether the intent was to draft an ordinance to allow for green technology or whether the City was promoting and inviting a certain technology to come to the City.

Chair Crump explained that the intent is to update the ordinance to address this new type of technology as that technology was not available when the ordinance was drafted.

Chair Crump stated that it was explained to the Subcommittee that in order to be efficient a windmill would need to be 30 feet above the tree level, which in Long Lake is 50 to 70 feet and would mean that the windmill height would need to be 80 to 100 feet.

Councilmember Skjaret believed the issue of whether setbacks would be required for the use of geothermal systems.

City Administrator Post confirmed that the Green Technology Subcommittee would meet with planning consultant Perry on Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. at City Hall to discuss crafting the ordinance language.

Chair Crump stated that he would like Councilmember Skjaret to bring forward the idea of a sustainable technology contest to the Council, which could begin in 2012 and would require a budget of approximately \$1,000 and award prizes to local property owners who best incorporate some of the new green technology innovations.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Council Liaison Report**

Councilmember Skjaret stated that there is a lot going on within the City at this time regarding vacant commercial properties and attempting to bring in new businesses. He reported that a PUD was approved for the Pioneers Museum to allow for a storage building. He stated that the Public Works Director provided his 2011 activity plan to the Council recently which included sanitary sewer cleaning and televising. He noted that City Administrator Post has contracted with an appraiser to have the Virginia Avenue MnDOT property neighboring City Hall to be appraised. He provided an update regarding the proposed tobacco and liquor license ordinance and noted that further revisions would be made to the proposed ordinance amendment. He noted that the Long Lake Fire Chief provided the annual review for the department at the Council meeting the previous Tuesday night and commended the Fire Chief for his recruitment of firefighters. He advised that as a City the overall estimated valuation of real property for property taxes payable 2012 fell by almost \$30,000,000 or 12%. He noted that this valuation decrease will influence future tough 2012 budget discussions.

### **Commission Member Business**

Commissioner Hughes referred to a local business and expressed concern over outside storage behind the building.

City Administrator Post noted that he would speak to the property owner about removing the debris from the property.

### **Staff Business**

City Administrator Post noted that there is interest in the Kenny's vacant property and believed that a path for financing may be available that was not present in prior years. He advised that a Board of Estimate and Review public hearing would be held the following Tuesday prior to the City Council meeting. He stated that he conducted a walkthrough of the sports dome property to investigate the issue of parking lot drainage improvements.

## **ADJOURN**

*The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Post  
City Administrator