



**CITY OF LONG LAKE  
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
February 9, 2016**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Erickson.

Present: Commission Members Adams, Erickson, Hughes, Jerde.  
City Planning Consultant Lewis.

Absent: Commissioner Keating, City Administrator Weske

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

*Commissioner Adams moved to approve the agenda with the above changes noted.  
Commissioner Jerde seconded. Ayes: all.*

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Minutes of the January 12, 2016 Planning Commission Meeting**

*Commissioner Jerde moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner  
Hughes seconded. Ayes: all.*

**OPEN CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Continue Discussion of Sign Ordinance Revisions**

Chair Erickson stated the subcommittee has been discussing sign ordinance changes and working on consensus of these issues, but he added they will need additional meetings in future, in order to work out some finer points, and make corrections.

Chair Erickson added he took some photos in town, which are representative of some of the less desirable signs in Long Lake. He passed them around to the commissioners for review, and as examples of the types of signs the city will want to improve upon. He added that most of these signs have been non-conforming for many years, however, they are grandfathered in, so won't be changed.

However, he added if EDA gives incentives to businesses that want to improve their property and if the ordinance can provide them with new standards, and these businesses comply with the new regulations, they may be willing to change their signage.

Chair Erickson added as a Planning Commission, they will need to focus on the character of Long Lake, and the architectural appearance, and view as visitors come into town. The impression others will have as they enter Long Lake will be negative, as it relates to these older, non-conforming signs. Additionally, he noted if Long Lake can create an environment of improvement with signage, this would definitely help visitor's first impressions of the City.

Commissioner Jerde asked what other cities do about city signs, and how older undesirable signs are removed.

Planning Consultant Lewis noted it is difficult to define what is undesirable and this is usually in the eye of the beholder, so this explains why design and architectural criteria for signs is not part of the ordinance. He added the City can only control the sign size and location through the ordinance. When signs are neglected, it becomes a challenge for the City.

Chair Erickson added this discussion will continue with the goal being to reduce conflicts and simplify the ordinance at this time, while streamlining what the ordinance currently states.

Commissioner Hughes added the subcommittee will meet again and then present proposed changes to whole Commission for review, prior to presenting to the City Council.

Commissioner Adams added that the ordinance should include language regarding current and future technology.

Planning Consultant Lewis added the goal will be to eliminate duplicate language and streamline the ordinance. A public hearing will be held after the changes are finalized and then the ordinance will go to City Council for approval.

## **B. Schedule Subcommittee Meeting Dates and Times**

Planning Consultant Lewis will send another email to the subcommittee regarding dates for future sign ordinance meetings and options for meeting agendas.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Council Liaison Report** - none.

### ***Commission Member Business***

Commissioner Jerde noted a friend of hers that is on another City Council mentioned they had implemented parameters for drones in their City. She suggested this is something Long Lake may want to consider also. She will give a copy of their parameters to Planning Consultant Lewis to review.

Chair Erickson expressed concern about drones also and noted that in the city of St. Bonifacious, drones were outlawed.

Commissioner Adams noted that the Long Lake Snowball Open was great success and the City did a wonderful job on this event. The Shuttle bus was well received and the weather was good on the day of the event. He added they are hoping for more snow on the lake at next year's event.

***Staff Business***

Planning Consultant Lewis said there will be three land use applications at March Planning Commission meeting.

**ADJOURN**

*Commissioner Jerde moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Commissioner Hughes seconded. Ayes: all.*

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Weske  
City Administrator