

PLANNING COMMISSION
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2018
4 p.m.

Members Present: Betty Root, Jim Cunningham, Diane LaPorte, Rob Splane and Peggy Wittman
(Members absent: Joe Frontiera and Jerry Spencer)

Also Present: City Manager Stan Rickard, Mayor Ron LaPorte, David Jirousek (Williams & Works), Patrice and Al Martin, Main Street Manager Julie Kreilick (4:03 p.m.), Carmelitta Tiffany (Oc. Herald Journal reporter) and Gale Goldberg (Dep.Clerk).

The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m. by Vice Chairman B. Root. The agenda was approved (5-0) upon motion by R. Splane and supported by P. Wittman. The minutes of the December 7, 2017 meeting were approved (5-0) upon motion by J. Cunningham and supported by P. Wittman.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Patrice Martin reported that their B & B is up and running and doing great. She explained that she and her husband had been at the Detroit Auto Show at the Pure Michigan Booth and it was a 7 hour non-stop engagement. During that time they were able to highlight the Hart Main Street program and the City of Hart and were met with lots of interest.

Al Martin noted that he was here to represent the Oceana Housing Commission and the Griswold project. While they are not prepared today they plan to return later regarding this project.

SIGN ORDINANCE UPDATE

David Jirousek explained it was best to look at this chapter in its entirety and has color-coded changes discussed previously (see memo dated January 25, 2018) and would like these to be reaffirmed. After going through the ordinance and having a discussion with the commission members on several items, it was agreed to make the following amendments:

1. Under 1259.07 Permanent Signs, under the Commercial District, strike "Marque signs: 20 percent of the marque surface."
2. Under 1259.08 Illumination (b), add "unless it is demonstrated to be historically accurate".
3. Under 1259.08 Illumination (c), include Electron Changeable Messages on wall signs.

Any proposed changes in the sign ordinance must have a Public Hearing. It was approved (5-0) to have a Public Hearing at the next Planning Commission meeting on Thursday, March 1, 2018, upon motion by J. Cunningham and supported by R. Splane.

ANNUAL REPORT REVIEW

David Jirousek supplied a 2017 Annual Report Summary with listed 2018 Goals and these goals were discussed. It was approved (5-0) to set Planning Commission meeting dates for the first Thursday of each month at 4 p.m. at city hall, upon motion by J. Cunningham and supported by D. LaPorte. There was also an approved motion (5-0) by R. Splane and supported by D. LaPorte to amend the 2018 Goals List to include continuing to include Redevelopment Ready Community (RRC) best practices. There was also an approved motion (5-0) by J. Cunningham and supported by D. LaPorte to adopt the 2018 Goals presented and as amended. There was also an approved motion (5-0) by D. LaPorte and supported by J. Cunningham to forward the amended Annual Report Summary to city council.

REDEVELOPMENT READY COMMUNITY (RRC) UPDATE

David Jirousek gave a quick update of the program and its status.

Before the close of the meeting, the city manager explained that Chairman Jerry Spencer will not be returning and this opening will need to be filled. Al Martin volunteered to fill the vacancy.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m. and approved (5-0) upon motion by R.Splane and supported by D. LaPorte.