

**Barnesville Planning Commission
Regular Meeting
Monday, December 7, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Barnesville Planning Commission was called to order by Chairman Merlin Strom at 6:32 p.m.

Members present: Mike Detloff, Steve Mortensen, Merlin Strom, Pat Berndt, Margaret Follingstad, Paul Karsnia, Matthew Wever, and Karen Lauer, Zoning Administrator.

Member absent: Mike Osten.

Others present: Roland Holm, Ruth Feldick, Brent Berg and Pam Aakre of the Barnesville Record-Review.

AGENDA

12-07-09-01 Motion by Detloff and seconded by Mortensen to approve the agenda. Unanimously carried.

MINUTES

12-07-09-02 Motion by Mortensen and seconded by Berndt to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2009 meeting. Unanimously carried.

INTERVIEW CANDIDATES FOR OPEN PLANNING COMMISSION SEAT

One candidate, Brent Berg, was present at the meeting. Berg presented a brief history of his experience. The Planning Commission members asked a few questions and discussed the Planning Commission with Berg. Chair Strom indicated the commission members would take action on a recommendation for the Planning Commission seat during a subsequent agenda item. The commission members thanked Berg for his interest in serving on the Planning Commission.

PROPOSED ACCESSORY BUILDING ORDINANCE

Karen Lauer reviewed the proposed accessory building ordinance language which included deletions, additions and changes to the current ordinance language. The Commission reviewed and discussed the various subdivisions in the ordinance. Follingstad expressed concern with being too restrictive on side yard construction. Follingstad indicated that smaller structures should be allowed in the side yard if they can meet the primary structure set back requirements and if they are of similar design, color and roof pitch as the primary structure. The following language was discussed:

- Subd. 1, Commission members agreed to insert accessory building in place of garage in the language.
- Subd. 2 Roland Holm expressed concern with the possibility of large accessory structures if two lots were merged. Commission members discussed the size of accessory structures and believed the current ordinance language to be appropriate. Commission members prefer to allow developers to be more restrictive in their covenants. No language changes were proposed.
- Subd. 3 No changes were proposed.
- Subd. 4 Commission members requested that Lauer research definitions for “outdoor living rooms and pool enclosures.” No changes were proposed.
- Subd. 5 Proposed change in language to be, “Any accessory building over 150 square feet or located in a side yard must be similar in design, color and roof pitch as the primary structure located on the lot.” In the current ordinance, playhouses are an accessory building and would need to meet the rules. Playground equipment is not addressed and Lauer would need to do some research if the Planning Commission would like to address their placement.
- Subd. 6 Commission members agreed that the dimensions for the concrete footings should be removed from the language.
- Subd. 7, 8, 10 and 11 No changes were proposed.

- Subd. 9 Commission members discussed the pros and cons of the 16' height restrictions for accessory buildings over 150 square feet.

Members agreed to review this further at the next meeting and to possibly hold a public hearing at the February meeting.

BOULEVARD TREES VERSUS SIDEWALKS

Karen Lauer reported that Dave Riddering, Public Works Director, has been approached about removing boulevard trees. Part of the reason for the request is due to root damage to sidewalks. Current language in the sidewalk ordinance states that if sidewalks are in poor shape, they may be removed and do not need to be replaced. Lauer noted that this is a planning issue and not a zoning issue. The City does have a concern with sidewalks being haphazardly removed and creating a safety issue when a sidewalk is present and then parts of it have been removed. Lauer also noted that the repair of a sidewalk is the expense of the property owner. Another tree concern is the presence of the ash borer. A copy of the Rochester management plan will be mailed to commission members with the January meeting materials. The Park Board would like to discuss this tree issue during the joint meeting with the Planning Commission.

RECOMMENDATION FOR PLANNING COMMISSION SEAT

Merlin Strom indicated a letter of resignation from Mike Osten has been received. It is necessary to appoint a replacement member on the Planning Commission.

12-07-09-03 Motion by Detloff and seconded by Follingstad to recommend to the City Council to appoint Brent Berg to a term on the Planning Commission. Unanimously carried.

JOINT ANNUAL MEETING WITH PARK BOARD

12-07-09-04 Motion by Berndt and seconded by Mortensen to hold the annual joint meeting with the Park Board on February 1, 2010 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. with the regular Planning Commission meeting to follow immediately after the joint meeting. Unanimously carried.

BUILDING PERMIT LIST

Buildings permits for November 2009 were reviewed.

The next Planning Commission meeting is Monday, January 4, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.

12-07-09-05 Motion by Mortensen and seconded by Karsnia to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. Unanimously carried.

Submitted by:

Pat Berndt
Planning Commission Secretary