

**Barnesville Planning Commission
Regular Meeting
Monday, June 4, 2007**

The regular meeting of the Barnesville Planning Commission was called to order by Chairman Jeremy Krause at 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Merlin Strom, Steve Mortenson, Margaret Follingstad, Gary Fraedrich, Jeremy Krause, Pat Berndt, and Karen Lauer, Acting Zoning Administrator.

Members absent: Mike Osten, and Jacob Gehrig.

Others present: Roland Holm, Don Sakry, and Pam Aakre of the Record-Review.

AGENDA

06-04-07-01 Motion by Strom and seconded by Mortenson to approve the agenda. Unanimously carried.

MINUTES

06-04-07-02 Motion by Fraedrich and seconded by Strom to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2007 meeting. Unanimously carried.

ORDINANCE CHANGES

Planning Commission members reviewed the ordinance change pages to be inserted in their ordinance books. One sheet contained references to two separate ordinances so Karen Lauer will supply a second copy of the page so the changes may be noted in both ordinances.

OUTSIDE STORAGE OPTIONS

Karen Lauer reported that she had received contacts regarding the use of rental storage cubes or the use of a semi-trailer for long term storage. Karen noted there is nothing in the zoning ordinance to prohibit the use of such items for storage. Currently, a commercial property owner is using semi-trailers for storage on the south end of town. Commission members asked if that property should have a fence and Karen noted that the issue is being addressed. Commission members discussed possible permissible lengths of time for the use of temporary storage units in residential and commercial zones. Members felt that the permissible length of time may vary by zone and by type of storage. Permanent storage would need to go into an accessory structure. Some discussion by Commission members included: 30 – 60 day time limit, no semi's in residential zones, and to restrict a trailer to the rear yard and it must be screened from the street. Karen Lauer will look for examples from area cities and will bring them to the next meeting.

YARD DEFINITIONS

Karen Lauer reviewed the proposed changes to the yard definitions. Karen noted that the City is relying on the building inspectors to craft language that should be done by the Planning Commission. The definitions for Front Yard and Side Yard are clarified by the verbiage modifications. The language for Reverse Corner Lots has been very confusing and has resulted in the building inspectors and/or the zoning administrator needing to grant a variance on required setbacks. Commission members discussed concerns with the issue of houses lining up with other houses on the block when adjustments are made on a Reverse Corner Lot. Every development has a minimum setback and typically everyone tries to line up their houses by common courtesy. Karen Lauer noted that some communities may be looking at Reverse Corner Lots as a variance rather than a definition. The Commission members will consider their role in setbacks being changed and the lack of notification to neighbors. Commission members discussed the possibility of having the Reverse Corner Lots reviewed by the Planning Commission before a permit is issued but not requiring a variance hearing. Karen Lauer will review the possibilities with the City Attorney. Planning Commission members will continue the discussion of Yard Definitions at the next meeting.

NON-TRADITIONAL PET ORDINANCE

Karen Lauer noted that the City Attorney had asked if the Planning Commission members would review proposed language for a Non-Traditional Pet Ordinance and provide input on the language. The Commission members commented on various items including size, quantity and level of danger of the pets. Karen Lauer made note of the comments and will relay them to the City Attorney.

BUILDING PERMIT LIST

The Planning Commission reviewed the building permits for May 1 through May 31, 2007.

The next Planning Commission meeting is Monday July 2, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.

06-04-07-03 Motion by Strom and seconded by Follingstad to adjourn at 8:22 p.m. Unanimously carried.

Submitted by:

Pat Berndt
Planning Commission Secretary