

Minutes of the Plan Commission – July 16th 2012

A meeting of the Plan Commission of the City of Prairie du Chien was held on Monday July 16th 2012 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Mayor Dave Hemmer called the meeting to order.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

PRESENT – Dave Hemmer (Chairperson), Linda Munson, Dan Key, Ross Ritchie, Curt Kramer
ABSENT - Tom Nelson, Roger Grunow ALSO PRESENT – City Planner Garth Frable, Attorney Mark Peterson, City Administrator Aaron Kramer

2. Certification of the open meeting law agenda requirements and approval of the agenda

MOTION: Munson SECOND: Kramer VOTE: 5-0

3. APPROVAL – Minutes of the June 18th 2012 meeting

ACTION: To approve MOTION: Kramer SECOND: Munson VOTE: 5-0

4. DISCUSSION AND ACTION - Recommendation on Certified Survey Map located in Farm Lots 17 and 18 of the Private Land Claims at Prairie du Chien, City of Prairie du Chien, Crawford County, Wisconsin, also being Lot 3, Crawford County Certified Survey Map Number 1199, Document Number 300566 – brought by the City of Prairie du Chien

Final approval by City Council will take place tomorrow evening. ACTION: To approve the CSM
MOTION: Munson SECOND: Hemmer VOTE: 5-0

5. DISCUSSION AND ACTION - Petition from Stan and Barb Toberman to vacate a portion of the alley abutting their property in Block 188 of Union Plat

If approved, this item will go to the Common Council for an initial resolution on August 7th and a public hearing on September 18th. Stan and Barb Toberman were present to answer questions from the Commission. ACTION: To approve the petition and forward to the Council for an initial resolution on August 7th MOTION: Ritchie SECOND: Kramer VOTE: 5-0

6. DISCUSSION AND ACTION - Proposed parking lot changes for the Rivercrest Apartments at 1007 E. Wisconsin Street (Cardinal Capital Management)

No further action by the Council is required. ACTION: To authorize the Zoning Administrator to approve those changes which are in compliance with the intent of the City Ordinance MOTION: Kramer SECOND: Munson VOTE: 5-0

7. DISCUSSION AND ACTION - Digital Signage Ordinance

At the March 19th meeting, staff recommended the Plan Commission rescind its February 27th motion, which was to recommend to the Common Council that they consider, at one of their April meetings, an ordinance approving the installation of digital billboard signs as a conditional use permit, pending the official ruling from the WDOT. The motion passed, and Olympus Media then asked for the issue to be tabled indefinitely. Staff has provided a proposed ordinance which would ban off-premise digital signs in the City of Prairie du Chien. ACTION: To place the item back on the table MOTION: Hemmer SECOND: Munson VOTE: 5-0

Discussion was held on the proposed ordinance. Jac Shimshak (Market Manager, Olympus Media) and Keith Carson (Real Estate Manager) were present and spoke in opposition to the proposed ordinance. ACTION: To direct staff to draft the ordinance prohibiting digital signs and forward to the Council for consideration MOTION: Hemmer SECOND: Munson VOTE: 3-3 (Kramer, Key and Ritchie opposed) – Motion failed due to a tie vote.

Shimshak and Carson requested the Commission consider the 2006 Resolution Excluding Certain Business Areas from the Great River Road Wisconsin Scenic Byway Route, passed by the Council but

never submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT). They asked that the Commission forward that Resolution to the Council for reconsideration. Staff said they had received no indication from the DOT that the deadline for the submittal of such a resolution has been waived. They also stated that, even if the Resolution were re-submitted and approved, this did not necessarily mean digital signs would be permitted on the Great River Road, and that the Plan Commission would still then have to take up the issue of an ordinance regulating or banning such signs. ACTION: To request the Council reconsider the 2006 Resolution Excluding Certain Business Areas from the Great River Road Wisconsin Scenic Byway Route MOTION: Kramer SECOND: Grunow VOTE: 5-1 (Munson opposed)

8. DISCUSSION AND ACTION – Backyard Cottage regulations

Staff was seeking direction from the Commission on possible regulations permitting the construction of “backyard cottages” in residential neighborhoods. Discussion was held on the proposed regulations presented to them from staff, and the consensus of the Commission was that they did not wish to such “cottages” or similar residential structures approved. ACTION: To approve the opinion of the Commission that they do not wish to see backyard cottage regulations considered MOTION: Grunow SECOND: Hemmer VOTE: 6-0

9. ADJOURNMENT (7:45 PM)

MOTION: Grunow SECOND: Munson VOTE: 6-0

Submitted by City Administrator Aaron Kramer