

City of Decorah  
Planning and Zoning Commission  
October 14, 2013 – 7:00pm

Meeting Minutes

Members present included: Donna Rae Ibanez, Ross Hadley, Lynne Sootheran, Benji Nichols and Stan Moellers. Absent: Brian Cook and Barbara Massman. Others present included City Manager Chad Bird and City Attorney Rick Zahasky.

Approval of the September 9, 2013 meeting minutes

Motion by Ibanez and seconded by Moellers to approve the minutes from the September 9, 2013. Unanimous, motion passed.

Consider C-3 Commercial Design Review re: 209 East Water Street – Nordic Chiropractic

Bird presented information relative to this review noting that the sign meets all applicable sign codes for the C-3 district and that this is a fascia sign.

**Motion by Hadley and seconded by Ibanez to approve the C-3 Design Review for 209 East Water Street.**

**Roll call: Unanimous, motion carried.**

Consider C-3 Commercial Design Review re: 211 East Water Street – B. Fit Studios

Bird presented information relative to this review noting that the sign meets all applicable sign codes for the C-3 district and that this is a blade type sign.

**Motion by Hadley and seconded by Moellers to approve the C-3 Design Review for 211 East Water Street.**

**Roll call: Unanimous, motion carried.**

Consider C-3 Commercial Design Review re: 206 West Water Street – T-Bock's Sports Bar & Grill

Bird presented information relative to this review noting that the sign meets all applicable sign codes for the C-3 district and that this is a blade sign for the establishment's upstairs area.

**Motion by Ibanez and seconded by Nichols to approve the C-3 Design Review for 206 West Water Street.**

**Roll call: Unanimous, motion carried.**

Consider C-3 Commercial Design Review re: 207 East Water Street – ReeFuel Studio

Bird presented information relative to this review noting that the sign meets all applicable sign codes for the C-3 district and that this is a fascia sign on the side of the building.

**Motion by Moellers and seconded by Ibanez to approve the C-3 Design Review for 207 East Water Street.**

**Roll call: Unanimous, motion carried.**

Consider a request to rezone properties from M-3 Industrial to C-2 General Commercial along Railroad Avenue

Bird presented a request to rezone this area along Railroad Avenue from M-3 Industrial to C-2 General Commercial.

He recommended that the commission consider rezoning the entire M-3 district rather than the one property requesting the change. In general discussion the commission agreed that current and desired uses would be more consistent with the C-2 Commercial than current zoning.

The committee set Monday, October 21, 2013 at 5:15 as a date and time to meet and schedule the notice of public hearing regarding the rezoning.

Discussion and possible action on Zoning Code Chapter 17.16.120 Prohibited Signs

Bird opened this discussion by sharing information from other communities as shared by representatives from Fairway Outdoor Advertising. Bird noted that he is looking to clarify language in the zoning code regarding electronic and display signs especially those that project LED animations. The examples provided from other communities have broader language and better definitions than Decorah's current code.

In further discussion, the commission asked Bird to draft samples of the 110, 120, and 130 sections of Chapter 17.16. There was also discussion about looking at other sign codes sections.

Discussion and possible action on subdivision fees

Bird noted that he had a conversation with County Zoning Administrator Tony Phillips regarding the letter Mr. Phillips recently sent to the City. Bird noted that he would try to schedule a joint city / county meeting soon to continue the conversation.

Other Business

- a. Set a meeting with County P&Z

This item was discussed above.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Chad A. Bird  
City Manager  
Zoning Administrator