

City of Decorah
Planning and Zoning Commission
September 8, 2014 – 7:00pm

Meeting Minutes

Members present included: Benji Nichols, Stan Moellers, Jarrad Walter, Barbara Massman and Lynne Sootheran. Others present included City Manager Chad Bird and Karla Organist.

Absent: Brian Cook and Donna Rae Ibanez.

Approval of the minutes from the August 11, 2014 meeting

Motion by Walter and seconded by Massman to approve the minutes from the August 11, 2014 meeting.

Roll call vote: Unanimous, motion passed.

Consider amendment to City Code Chapter 15.04 – Design Criteria

The commission considered suggestions to amend the code section regarding design criteria as it relates to murals and art work in the C-3 Downtown District. There was some discussion on language and the commission agreed that the following should be inserted into the code as a new section directing review of applications pertaining to murals and art work: *Murals or art work may be painted on the sides or rear areas of buildings only. Murals and art work content is subject to Commission review and must be harmonious with the character of the C-3 Central Business Commercial District Design Guidelines.*

Bird said he would write an ordinance and bring to the commission for final review and acceptance.

Discussion on zoning code amendments

There was general discussion and review of the entire code. Discussion was led by Karla Organist of the Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission. Organist led the commission through the sign code matrix. There was much discussion regarding electronic signs. Generally the commission is opposed to lighted electronic signs of the visual display variety and there was some debate. Moeller expressed interest in seeing electronic sign code developed and Walter stated that he preferred to not see an allowance for the newer electronic sign varieties.

The commission also reviewed billboards and zoning districts in general discussion.

Other business

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13pm

Respectfully submitted,



Chad A. Bird
City Manager
Zoning Administrator