

REGULAR NORWALK PLANNING & ZONING MEETING 1-26-2011

A regular meeting of the Norwalk Planning and Zoning Commission was held at the Norwalk Easter Public Library, 1051 North Avenue, Wednesday, January 26, 2011. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M. by Vice Chairperson Dan Schulz. Those present at roll call were, Rodney Martinez, John Fraser, Melissa Hill-Anderson, Jim Huse and Dan Schulz. Absent: Kim Leonhardt and Stephanie Riva.

Staff present: Mike Johnson, Associate City Planner and Shelley Heisdorffer, Development Services Clerk.

11-01 Motion by Huse and seconded by Fraser to approve the agenda. Approved 5-0.

11-02 Motion by Martinez and seconded by Fraser to approve minutes from the December 15, 2010 special meeting. Approved 5-0.

With no guests present, the business portion of the meeting was opened.

Kim Leonhardt arrived at 5:45 p.m.

The first item on the agenda was Proposed Standing Rules of the Norwalk Planning & Zoning Commission. Mr. Johnson explained that in order to provide a clear and concise set of rules for the Commission, staff is recommending that the Commission officially adopt standing rules. These rules if approved would provide a template for how meetings are conducted and other important rules.

The Commission discussed the time the meetings are held, excused and unexcused absences and public hearings. The Commission decided they would like to have Mr. Johnson make some changes to the current template and would like to have a study session on this topic at the next meeting.

Mr. Johnson asked the Commission to contact him with any suggestions they have of changes to the current template so we have something to work with at the next meeting.

11-03 Motion by Huse and seconded by Fraser to table Proposed Standing Rules of the Norwalk Planning & Zoning Commission to the next meeting where a study session will be held. Approved 6-0.

The next item on the agenda was Small Wind Energy Ordinance – Study Session. Mr. Johnson reported to the Commission that in the past year, the small wind energy conversions systems movement has gained significant headway. With more and more people interested in energy savings and “going green”, several Iowa communities have introduced ordinances to help regulate wind energy systems.

The Commission discussed the Ordinance and Mr. Johnson asked that Commission members have comments and recommendations to him before the next scheduled regular meeting on February 9th.

11-04 Motion by Fraser and seconded by Huse to approve adjournment at 6:08 p.m. Approved 6-0.

Dan Schulz, Vice Chairperson

Mike Johnson, Associate City Planner