

VILLAGE OF WAUSAUKEE
PLANNING COMMISSION
Wednesday 27 January 2010
Wausaukee Village Hall
428 Harrison Street, Wausaukee, WI
7:00 PM

MINUTES

1. Call to Order – Chairman Ray Gordon called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM. Commission members present were John Ranallo, Dave Messar, Ann Hartnell & Mike Messar. Also present were Jeff Townsend, Kellen Stumbris & Hilbert Radtke.

Absent or excused: Rosie Figas.
2. Approval of Agenda – Hartnell made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by M. Messar. Motion carried by voice vote.
3. Approval of the 2 December 2009 meeting's minutes. D. Messar made a motion to approve minutes; seconded by Ranallo. Motion carried by voice vote.
4. Discussion/Action: Enforcement of Ordinances: Forming a three person Ordinance Enforcement Committee. All the members read the letter from Attorney Harvey with his opinions & observations about an ordinance committee. The consensus of most of the members was having unqualified & unelected people on a committee enforcing ordinances was not the way to go. There were lots of reservations about the whole idea.

Ranallo said he was looking at sending out spring letters to everyone in the Village with an ordinance flyer saying the Village is going to be looking at problems & sending letters to residents when there is a problem. The committee would act in an advisory capacity.

The question was asked, does the Village really want to go looking for problems? And if a letter is sent for one problem in a yard, what is going to be done about known problems with more prominent residents/businesses? Hiring a person with at least some law enforcement training was brought up. Ranallo said the Village does not have the funds for this in 2010. Gordon said instead of a committee going around looking for problems, when the streets committee inspects the streets, they could note problems & bring them to the boards attention.

Townsend said he was looking for a committee of a board member & two Village residents investigating complaints that come in to the office & then bring a recommendation to the Board. He wants to get more people in the community involved in improving the Village. He said although ordinance enforcement is going to anger a dozen or so people who are cited, the rest of the Village will be glad to see an eyesore cleaned up. All of this helps the Village looks more inviting to visitors & newcomers. The result he's aiming for is increased valuation in the Village which will lower taxation.

Ranallo said he wants to send out ordinance letters to everyone in early spring. Then in late spring, a committee survey the Village for problems. The 4 or 5 most glaring problems would be acted on. The other, lesser problems would be addressed with an FYI letter to the resident.

The procedure for dealing with problems would be a complaint form filed, ordinance committee investigates to verify the problem, recommendation sent to the board. If so deemed by the board, a certified letter signed by all the board members and a copy of the ordinance is then sent to the resident. The resident can come to the board if they wish to contest the clean up letter. If the resident does not comply, the matter would have to go to circuit court.

The recommendation formed by the Planning Commission to the Village Board was: To form a Voluntary Ordinance Committee at Large (VOCAL) to respond to citizen ordinance concerns & complaints. The committee would be one board member & two residents & be strictly voluntary. Hartnell will ask the Village Clerk to check with the League of Municipalities regarding the legality of this type of committee.

The group also recommends sending out an ordinance flyer 1-2 times a year, in spring & possibly fall, to remind residents of ordinances. It was felt this alone may trigger clean up & calls about existing problems.

5. Discussion/Action: Final Comprehensive Plan Delivery. The Jim VanLaanen said in an e-mail the finalized plan was to be printed by today & should be delivered soon.
6. Discussion/Action: Synchronizing the Comprehensive Plan & Village Ordinances. Tabled until the next meeting.
7. The next regular commission meeting
 - Next Planning Commission meetings will be Wednesday, 24 February 2010.
 - Meeting time 7:00 PM at the Wausaukee Village Hall
8. Adjourn – Ranallo moved to adjourn; seconded by D. Messar. Motion carried by voice vote at 8:25 PM.