

Minutes  
of the  
NORTH MANKATO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING  
North Mankato, Minnesota  
April 13, 2017

A regular meeting of the North Mankato Planning Commission was held at 7 p.m., April 13, 2017, in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

Planning Commission Members present: Chair Stephanie Stoffel, Bryan Bode, Jason Beal, Isaac Kerry and Corey Brunton. Staff Members present: Council Liaison Jim Whitlock, City Attorney Mike Kennedy and Community Development Director Mike Fischer.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bode, seconded by Commissioner Brunton to approve the minutes of January 12, 2017, regular meeting of the Planning Commission. Vote on the motion: all ayes, 0 nays; motion carried.

**V-1-17, Variance Request to Allow a Ground Sign and Pylon Sign at 2040 Commerce Drive.**

Staff presented a variance request from Commerce Drive Dental to allow both a ground sign and a pylon sign at 2040 Commerce Drive. Staff summarized the existing Sign Code regulations applicable to the property and the Commerce Drive area, including legal standards which apply when considering variances. City Attorney Kennedy summarized the three factors which must be satisfied or potential amendments to the Sign Code to accommodate the request. Ben Roach of M&M signs supported the Planning Commissions conversation of considering amendments to the Sign Code and acknowledged other area signs on property which have multiple street frontages. Barb Church, 102 Wheeler Avenue, indicated she had a conversation with the League of Minnesota and believes the variance request does not meet the necessary criteria but does support amendments to the Sign Code. The Planning Commission held discussions regarding potential amendments to the sign code, spacing of signs, setbacks, properties with multiple street frontages and message boards. After continued discussion it was moved by Commissioner Kerry, seconded by Commissioner Beal to deny V-1-17 and direct staff to propose amendments to the Sign Code for consideration at the May 2017 Planning Commission Meeting. Vote on the motion: all ayes, 0 nays; motion carried.

In other business, staff presented the 2016 End of the Year Planning and Zoning Report as an informational item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Beal, seconded by Commissioner Bode to adjourn. Vote on the motion; all ayes, 0 nays; motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

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Chairperson

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Secretary