

Minutes
February 12, 2020

Present: Susan Schreibman (SS), Patrick Griffin (PG), Larry Walter (LW) and Dave Coppock (DC).

Absent: Alvin Figiel (AF).

Also Present: Tara Kelly, Planning Director and Zoning Administrator and Barbara Spaulding, recording secretary.

SS, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

- I. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS** – SS suggested adding under New Business the resolution to apply for Downtown Transportation Funds (DTF).
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT** – None.
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 29, 2020.**

LW moved to approve the minutes of January 29, 2020. DC seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. NEW BUSINESS – 2020 Downtown Transportation Grant resolution.

Barbara said the RRA, on behalf of the City, is re-applying to DTF for the design, construction and installation of pedestrian wayfinding signage in Downtown. The application will also attempt to include collaboration with a newly forming Pedestrian Safety Committee to address a larger conversation regarding pedestrian safety that the City is currently having. Discussion continued regarding re-painting the existing crosswalks with a more durable material and reducing the speed limit in Downtown.

PG moved to have SS, as Chair, sign the resolution on behalf of the Planning Commission. DC seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

V. OLD BUSINESS.

Paving/Sidewalk Bond – SS shared a draft letter to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen regarding the Paving/Sidewalk Bond that included recent edits by AF. The Commission reviewed the letter and made changes to include the formation of an interested group of citizens to help implement the road and sidewalk repairs using Complete Streets policies. Following several edits, the Commission came to a consensus on the letter's content, signed the letter and it will be provided to the Mayor and Aldermen.

Density & Design Bylaws Update – Tara explained that only one proposal was received. In light of the one response to the RFQ, she asked the Commission how they would like to proceed. She added that both Dave Cooper and Brennan Duffy of the ZBAG would like to be a part of the process.

The Commission reviewed the single proposal from Place Sense. Tara and SS have had experience with its principal and both feel comfortable with her ability to help explain the two major sticking points within the draft zoning bylaws; design control and multi-family housing.

DC suggested scanning the proposal and sharing it with Dave and Brennan. SS added that an interview should be conducted so that everyone could be confident in Place Sense's abilities. Tara said she would like to move quickly because several municipal planning grants were awarded to which Place Sense might have also responded. The following dates would be considered for an interview: Tuesday Feb. 18, Thursday Feb. 20 and Friday Feb. 21 all at 8:30 am at City Hall.

City Master Plan – Draft Update.

SS said that Alderman Etori and the RRA had several comments regarding the draft master plan. The Commission, using an overhead projector, reviewed those comments with the understanding that the RRA would be represented at the public hearing on March 11 to discuss concerns.

Tara added that her concern was with the Educational Park District and that it should be amended to reflect the changing situation and allow flexibility for its redevelopment. Brennan has asked Tara to draft proposed language for him to include in the RRA comments.

SS also discussed amendments to two maps that would also be considered at the public hearing.

DC was asked to bring evidence to the public hearing supporting the changes in Section 9: Energy plan with regard to natural gas.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE – None.

VII. ADJOURN.

PG moved to adjourn. DC seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 6:45 pm. The next meeting will be held March 11, 2020.

For the Commission:

Barbara Spaulding, Recording Secretary