

Minutes of the Porter Plan Commission

February 16, 2005

A. The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Roll Call

Present: Mr. Eriksson, Mr. Liebert, Mr. Childress, Mr. Lewis, and Mrs. Snyder.

Absent: Mr. Bell and Mr. Timm.

Quorum was established.

Also present were Mr. Lyp and Mr. Mandon.

D. Consideration of Minutes of Previous Meetings

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2005 meeting as written made by Mr. Childress; second by Mr. Lewis.

Motion carried 5 – 0.

E. Audience Participation

None

F. Final Approvals

None

G. Preliminary Hearings

1. Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore petition for Vacation of an alley at Porter Beach.
2. Petition includes a request to waive petition fees.

Tom Goldbin presented the petition for the National Lakeshore. The vacation of the alley is to facilitate the building of parking lot and restroom facilities for use by visitors to the Lakeshore. He presented pictures of the site to the Commission that will be added to the petition file.

Mr. Childress and Mrs. Snyder spoke against waiving the petition fee due to costs the Town will incur as we go through the public hearing process. Mr. Liebert stated he believed the Commission waived the fee for the last National Lakeshore petition.

Mr. Mandon stated a TAC meeting would be held to determine if any easements would need to be maintained on the property.

Motion to set the petition to public hearing at the March Plan Commission meeting but not waive the petition fee made by Mr. Childress; second by Mrs. Snyder. Motion carried 5 – 0.

H. Public Hearings

None

I. Findings of Fact

None

J. Other Business

1. Plan Commission Secretary Appointment

The PC needs to appoint a new Secretary. Two people have expressed interest: Kara Mitchell and Mike Liebert. Mr. Childress suggested we advertise the position and take applications and decide at the next meeting. Matter tabled until March PC meeting.

2. Zoning Ordinance Amendments returned from Town Council for review.

Town Council comments included:

- a. References to recreational vehicles should be removed;
- b. Allow side yard and rear yard usage, not rear yard only; and
- c. Hard surface requirement changed to allow other surfaces also.

Discussion:

Recreational Vehicles were included mostly because people have 30 foot boats in their driveways. It is complicated to include these in an ordinance because they are legal uses in a residential area. Mr. Mandon recommends we send back the ordinance without the recreational vehicle provisions and just concentrate on the original intent of restricting commercial and industrial vehicles in residential areas.

Mr. Lyp spoke of the procedures when an ordinance is returned from the Town Council.

Matter was tabled until the March PC meeting when Mr. Mandon and Mr. Lyp will have a new proposed ordinance for PC review.

1. Bond Questions

The Town is receiving letters regarding partial or whole cancellation of Letters of Credit for sub-division infrastructure. Procedures involving Town Engineer Haas and Associates in such decisions were discussed. Letter received by Plan Commission will be forwarded to Mr. Lyp for review and possible action.

I. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Childress; second by Mrs. Snyder. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

People in audience wanted to ask questions concerning the Zoning Ordinance amendments because they were told at the Town Council meeting to attend the PC meeting to do so. It became apparent from such questions the amendment might need enough changes to warrant further public input.

PC meeting re-opened at 8:22 p.m. by motion of Mr. Lewis; second by Mr. Childress; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion to have Zoning Ordinance amendment set for public hearing at March PC meeting made by Mr. Lewis; second by Mr. Childress; Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Motion to re-adjoin by Mr. Lewis; second by Mr. Childress. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Lorain Bell
President

Secretary