

IRONWOOD PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

A Regular Meeting of the Ironwood Planning Commission was held on Wednesday, October 5, 2011, beginning at 5:30 p.m. with a Public Hearing in the Community Development Room, 2nd Floor, Municipal Memorial Building, Ironwood, Michigan.

1. Chairman Wyssling opened the Public Hearing at 5:30 P.M. He reviewed the Public Hearing Procedure that would be followed.
2. PUBLIC HEARING: To hear comments relative to proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance language addressing Essential Service Facilities.

Community Development Director Merritt Bussiere addressed the Planning Commission stating this was the fourth draft of the language that was added to the Zoning Ordinance to address Essential Service Facilities. He further mentioned the addition not only addresses the request from Xcel Energy but also gives a broader definition to address a range of Essential Service Facilities which might include utility substations, sewage treatment plants, biomass, heating, cooling, and energy production plants. Further discussion of this matter took place.

There were no public comments received.

3. Chairman Wyssling closed the public comment session of the Public Hearing at 5:34 P.M. Discuss and consider approval of the proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance.

Motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Geib and carried to approve the changes to be in accordance with the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act for conditional use permits for this type of operation and that the Planning Commission forward the changes to the City Commission for their review and approval.

4. Chairman Wyssling closed the Public Hearing at 5:35 P.M.

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1. Chairman Wyssling called the Regular Meeting Called to Order at 5:35 P.M.
 2. Recording of the Roll.

PRESENT: Geib, Johnson, Powers, Bergman, and Chairman Wyssling.
ABSENT: Lytywniuk (excused)

3. Consider approval of the September 1, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes and September 7th Special Meeting Minutes.

Motion was made by Geib, seconded by Johnson and carried to approve the September 1, 2011 regular meeting minutes and the September 7th special meeting minutes.

4. Consider approval of the Agenda.

Motion was made by Bergman, seconded by Geib and carried to approve the Agenda as presented.

5. Citizens wishing to address the Commission on Items on the Agenda. (Three Minute Limit).

There were none.

OLD BUSINESS

7. Project Updates

There were none.

NEW BUSINESS

8. Review and comment on the draft Depot Park *General Plan for Park Development* and identify relevant planning issues.

Community Development Director Merritt Bussiere explained to the Planning Commission that this draft is in the planning stage. He further noted if the Planning Commission members have any input regarding planning, policy, or design elements of the proposed Depot Park General Plan for Park Development they should pass it along to either him or Lee-Ann Garske. Mr. Bussiere mentioned as the City moves forward with implementation of the plan there might be items the Planning Commission would like brought back to them for review.

Director Bussiere also noted there was an error in the plan in which the Kiosk location was changed to the east side of the pavilion.

Lee-Ann Garske from the Downtown Ironwood Development Authority (DIDA) addressed the Planning Commission Members regarding the draft of the Depot Park General Plan for Park Development. She gave a presentation on the history stating this plan originally started from the 2009 Blue Print Plan in which it stated that the Depot Park should be a focus of downtown development and to vacate Frederick Street. She mentioned that the DIDA met in November to focus on seven (7) high priority projects. Mrs. Garske volunteered to be the project driver for the Depot Park Project and a Depot Park Advisory Group was formed. Several meetings and input from many people were taken into consideration and this plan was developed.

Planning Commissioners raised the following issues related to the park plan:

- *WWI Memorial Cannon – What will happen to the memorial? How will it will be incorporated into the park? Who owns?
- *Has the City looked into acquiring the Chiropractic Building?
- *Explore adding the Depot Park General Plan for Park Development into the City's adopted 5-year Park & Recreation Plan which, in turn should become part of the City's Comprehensive Plan.
- *Motorized Trail issues were raised and addressed in the park plan, except that the plan should include option to redirect snowmobile traffic during large winter events in the park.
- *Skate Rink issues raised were addressed in the park plan.
- *The Kiosk had been moved during the course of the park planning. Locating the Kiosk where visitors will gather is key.
- *Check to make sure that the City property established the park by Ordinance in perpetuity.

Mrs. Garske mentioned that during the process a DNR Trust Fund Grant became available and they were given permission to apply. The City of Ironwood was then invited to present their grant idea for funding and then later given an opportunity to resubmit the grant with additions. Further discussion of this matter took place.

9. Other Business.

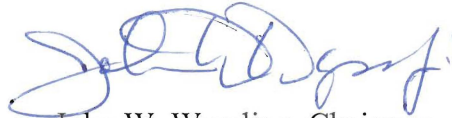
Commissioner Powers questioned if the Planning Commission would be involved in the planning of the proposed 50 streets to be blacktopped. She and other members would like to review the Paser Study and provide input on plans for future water, sewer disconnections, and the elimination of future streets. Further discussion of this matter took place.

10. Citizens wishing to address the Commission on Items not on the Agenda (Three Minute Limit).

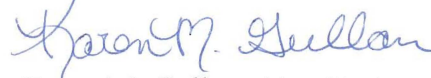
Victor Lofgreen introduced himself to the Planning Commission stating since he and his wife have been in Ironwood he has yet to meet a negative person. He further commented that he truly enjoys the Ironwood area.

10. Adjournment.

Motion was made by Geib, seconded by Johnson and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 P.M.



John W. Wyssling, Chairman



Karen M. Gullan, City Clerk