

Community Development Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2013

1.) Call the Meeting to Order

Chairperson Ginny Moore and Vice Chairperson Patsy Cody were both absent from the meeting, so Mike Kiser nominated Jerry Brummel as acting Chairperson. Wayne Steinstra seconded the motion. Upon vote, motion carried, therefore electing Jerry Brummel as acting Chairperson.

The meeting of the Community Development Committee was called to order by acting Chairperson Jerry Brummel at 5:32 p.m.

2.) Roll Call.

Members Present: Jerry Brummel, Linda Groenendyk, Mike Kiser, Jody Lautenbach, Lori Parisee, Wayne Steinstra, Dennis Vander Beek, and Mike DeWild

Members Absent: Patsy Cody, Ginny Moore, Robyn Van Berkum.

Others Present: Jerry Byers – secretary to the Committee, George Wesselhoft – Director of Planning and Zoning.

3.) New Member Welcome

Lori Parisee was welcomed to the Community Development Committee as its newest member.

4.) Design Permit Application – Community 1st Credit Union

Design Permit Application was submitted for Community 1st Credit Union. The application is for a proposed repaint of the exterior of the building at 500 Main Street, Pella, Iowa 50219.

Photos of sample paint colors were submitted as the samples are painted on the east side of the building facing the alley. The colors include grays for the main body of the building and a maroon for the trim, fascia and soffit.

Jerry Brummel represented Community 1st and explained to the Committee where the different colors were to go.

There were several comments from the committee about how nice they thought the building would look.

Mike Kiser made the motion to approve as submitted.

Wayne Steinstra seconded the motion.

Jerry Brummel abstained due to conflict of interest.

Upon vote, motion was approved. Jerry Brummel - abstain, Linda Groenendyk - yes, Mike Kiser - yes, Jody Lautenbach – yes, Lori Parisee – yes, Wayne Steinstra – yes, Dennis Vander Beek – yes and Mike DeWild – yes. Vote was 7 to 0 with one abstention.

5.) Review of Interior Lit Window Signage

Mr. Wesselhoft spoke to the Committee about the Lit Window Signage issue. The issue was brought up at the September 17, 2013 City Council meeting in Policy and Planning after a Councilmember received request by small businesses to allow lighted open signage.

Mr. Wesselhoft continued by stating that currently interior lit window signage has not been allowed since 1987.

City Council's direction was to have the CDC review the ordinance. Options include: no change to current ordinance recommendations, present back to Council with the direction to submit recommendation to change the ordinance from what it is, or do further review and direct staff as needed.

Currently Council has not taken a position either way.

Mr. Byers indicated that Code Enforcement on this type of signage has been minimal with a handful in the past couple of years.

Mr. Wesselhoft indicated that as he understands the issue, some businesses feel they could do better with a lit sign as far as communicating they are open.

There were questions about the ordinance as it is now.

Mr. Steinstra asked about the possibility of having a lit sign without having neon.

Mrs. Lautenbach asked about Real Estate electronic signage.

Mr. Wesselhoft indicated that currently interior lit window signs are not allowed but also explained the definition of the sign under code.

Discussion ensued about the types of lit signs and the many ways to display.

The example of sandwich board signs was used in the possibility of how interior lit signage could expand in the downtown areas.

Ms. Parisee asked about the difference between having lit signs in the downtown as compared to having lit signs in the external areas and whether it was an all or nothing kind of code.

She used the example of having a neon sign at the Sports Page restaurant which she indicated did not feel as old world as compared to having the same sign in the downtown.

Mr. Kiser indicated that he would like to send the ordinance back to Council saying no to neon. He said the ordinance has been this way for over 25 years and he doesn't feel the Committee should change it now.

He also indicated that technology has changed and maybe we should have a study indicating what types of signage is available.

Discussion ensued about the types of lit signs available and changing technology.

Several members indicated they would not want any type of lit sign in the downtown area.

The Committee directed staff to look into types of signs and look around at other towns and find out what types of lit signs they have.

6.) Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the August 14, 2013, Regular Meeting.

The minutes were approved as submitted.

7.) Other Business

Lamp Post Lounge

Mr. Vander Beek and Ms. Moore met with the owner of the Lamp Post Lounge and decided on colors to paint the doors on the north side of the business.

The owner has painted the door and trim black to match the hardware and other doors on that side of the block instead of the colors picked by the Architecture Sub-Committee.

Mr. Byers asked if the Committee would be fine with that and that it does match much of the rest of the block.

There was discussion about the fact that the owner did not follow the Committee's direction.

Mr. Steinstra indicated that the color black looks fine.

8.) Adjournment

Acting Chairperson Brummel adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.
Jerry Byers
Building Official