

Town of Duluth Planning Commission
January 25, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Dave Miller. Roll was called and all members were in attendance. The minutes of the November 30, 2006 meeting were approved as presented. The agenda was approved with the addition of a request from the Rural North Shore Senior Housing Initiative.

Chair Report: The agenda for the meeting tonight will be re-organized so important items can be addressed. The 2006 Accomplishment Report was discussed. A short handout will summarize number of meetings, volunteer time and other pertinent information.

Criteria for Planning Commission position was discussed. The Town Board is responsible for hiring a person to replace Sue Lawson's position on the Commission. The Planning Commission came up with the following criteria as a suggestion in selecting the new person.

1. Ability to work with people in a positive way and experience in working with diverse groups and with conflict situations.
2. Knowledge of the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance.
3. Commitment to enforce the Zoning Ordinance.
4. Community interest over individual interest.
5. Commitment to attend meetings and keep abreast of issues. After discussion, a motion was made by Sue Lawson and seconded by Janet Green to recommend the above criteria to the Town Board. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business: Patricia O'Keefe expressed an interest in the Secretary position for the Planning Commission. The Commission will recommend to the Town Board to hire her as of February 8, 2007 with pay retroactive to January 29, 2007. Welcome aboard, Trisha. Carolyn Marino has resigned as Secretary after 20 years to pursue other interests.

PUD application process: A lengthy discussion ensued regarding this issue. There are at least eight steps in this very complicated process. The 60 day rule was also discussed at length. A question arose as to whether a development team could take an individual from the Planning Commission to the building site alone. This would not be prudent! More discussion to follow on this issue.

Rural North Shore Senior Housing Initiative: This group has been working on affordable housing for Seniors in our area. The group would like to request \$600.00 from the Planning Commission to conduct a study on how many people have had to move out of the area due to lack of affordable senior housing. We have \$2,500.00 in our yearly budget for special projects. Sue Lawson made a motion to approve the request and Adam Hendrickson seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Janet Green added a friendly amendment to let the Senior Housing group decide on how to spend the \$600.00.

Budget discussion: Wayne Dahlberg and Dave Miller will work on the 2008 Budget proposal to be discussed at the February 13, 2007 Budget meeting.

Old Business: There was a lengthy discussion on "Draft Proposed Language Changes" for March Public Hearing. The definition of "short term" rental was discussed at length. In Lake and Cook County a "short term" rental is 30 days or less. The data will be reviewed and discussed at the February meeting.

Michael Kahl updated regarding LIU situation. There has been a limited response and he feels the LIU area residents need to be contacted again for feedback. Map change or zone district change was discussed. There was also a discussion of industrial broaching on commercial properties on Homestead Road. Any thoughts regarding LIU can be e-mailed to Michael Kahl before the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Marino, Secretary
Town of Duluth Planning Commission