

CITY OF ALBERT LEA
PLANNING COMMISSION
ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

August 1, 2017 - 5:30 pm
City Center – Council Chambers

Members Present

Colby Cunningham
Jon Murray, Chair
Thayne Nordland
Jason Willner

Members Absent

Larry Baker, Ex-Officio
Rick Mummert
Doug Olson
Pam Schmidt

Staff in Attendance

Cierra Maras, Fire & Inspection Administrative Assistant
Wayne Sorensen, Building/Zoning Administrator

Interested Parties

None

Planning Commission Chair, Jon Murray, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

Nordland made a motion to approve the agenda and Cunningham seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously on a voice vote.

Approval of Minutes

Nordland made a motion to approve the minutes from July 18th, 2017. Willner seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously on a voice vote.

Public Hearings

None

New Business

None

Old Business:

1. Zoning Ordinance Changes

Staff report prepared by Molly Patterson-Lundgren, Planner WSB & Associates, Inc. and an audio recording of this meeting become part of these minutes by reference.

Sorensen cited the recent change to Zoning Ordinance Sec. 74-18. He noted that he had spoken with surrounding cities and what they use for size limits on accessory buildings. Some proposed changes to this section include removing the 80% of principal structure due to it not being necessary and in place of that adding the chart for lot sizes and coordinating structure sizes. Another suggested change is limiting the number of structures to 2 per lot when applying to carports, garages, or sheds and not applying it to other structures such as pergolas or gazebos.

Staff presented an addition to this section of Code regarding temporary structures. Staff proposed temporary structures to only be permitted in the back yard and that cargo shipping containers are not to be allowed in residential districts.

Some minor changes were discussed regarding clarification on existing definitions including shed, temporary accessory structure, carport, gazebo, and pergola. Staff and the Commission noted rewriting some existing definitions and more clarification on definitions for accessory structures and what is considered an accessory structure.

Staff noted the Commissioner's requests and recommendations to the proposed changes and will review, edit, and bring back to the next meeting.

Commissioner Communications

None

Staff Communications

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m. The motion to adjourn was made by Nordland and seconded by Cunningham. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously on a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Cierra Maras
Planning Commission Secretary



Jon Murray
Chair, Planning Commission