



**City of Newport  
Planning Commission Minutes  
April 12, 2012**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Lindoo called the meeting to order at 7:24 P.M.

**2. ROLL CALL -**

Commissioners present – Susan Lindoo, Dan Lund, Katy McElwee-Stevens, Matt Prestegaard

Commissioners absent – Janice Anderson,

Also present – Brian Anderson, City Administrator; Renee Helm, Executive Analyst;

**3. APPROVAL OF PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES**

**A. Planning Commission Minutes of March 8, 2012**

**Motion by Prestegaard, seconded by McElwee-Stevens, to approve the March 8, 2012 minutes as presented. With 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, the motion carried.**

**4. APPOINTMENTS WITH COMMISSION**

**A. Discuss Allowable Fence Materials**

Executive Analyst Helm presented on this item as outlined in the April 12, 2012 Planning Commission meeting. Executive Analyst Helm updated the draft ordinance regulating allowable fence materials from the March 8, 2012 Planning Commission meeting by adding language that allows for fences to be constructed of the following materials:

- Treated wood, cedar, or redwood
- Simulated wood
- Decorative brick or stone
- Wrought iron or aluminum designed to simulate wrought iron
- Coated or non-coated chain link
- Split rail
- Welded Wire – Only allowed in the RE District and in backyards
- Snow Fences - Only allowed in the RE District between November 1 and April 15

It was requested that the language regarding welded wire be amended to include the following:

- Language identifying where the rear yard begins
- Language allowing welded wire in the front yard of RE properties for small enclosures to protect vegetation

The amended ordinance will be brought forward at the May Planning Commission meeting for a public hearing.

## B. Discuss the Keeping of Chickens and Honeybees

Executive Analyst Helm presented on this item as outlined in the April 12, 2012 Planning Commission meeting. At the March 8, 2012 Planning Commission meeting it was requested that staff research the keeping of chickens in R1, R1-A, and RE Districts. Currently residents in the RE Districts are allowed to keep chickens as farm animals. City staff provided the Planning Commission with a draft ordinance that allows for the keeping of chickens on any single-family residential property in the R1, R1-A, RE, or MX-1 Districts.

Executive Analyst Helm moved through the draft ordinance. It was requested that the following changes be made in regards to the keeping of chickens:

- **Definitions:** Add language to require roofs under the definitions of “Chicken Coop” and “Chicken Run”
- Remove the following language “The slaughtering of chickens is prohibited within the City” from the ordinance
- **Size:** Change the language regarding size to have a minimum of 5-10 square feet per chicken and maximum of 40 square feet for chicken coops and 80 square feet for chicken runs.

Executive Analyst Helm also went through the requested changes to the ordinance in regards to the keeping of honeybees.

**Tony Mahmood, 822 High Street** – I’ve been researching the keeping of honeybees and chickens as well. It sounds like the regulations right now don’t allow me to keep honeybees on my property because I don’t meet the setback requirements. I know that if I’m allowed to keep honeybees, I do need to go to the U of M to take a class on how to raise honeybees. I know that you need to have shrubs or a fence around the hives so that the bees aren’t coming straight into the hive and instead have to come in at an angle.

It was requested that staff conduct further research in regards to the keeping of honeybees to determine if there are state mandates in regards to the keeping of honeybees such as required training for property owners, colony density, and setbacks. It was also requested that the following be amended:

- **Written Consent** – Applicants must receive written consent from **occupied** property owners within 250 feet from the hive.
- **Colony Density** – Change the radius in 6.c from 200 feet to 250 feet to be consistent with written consent requirement.

This will be brought back to the Planning Commission at a future meeting.

## C. Discuss Coal Tar-Based Sealants for Driveways

Executive Analyst Helm presented on this item as outlined in the April 12, 2012 Planning Commission meeting. It was requested that City staff research the possibility of banning coal tar-based sealants for asphalt driveways due to the negative impact it has on bodies of water, specifically stormwater ponds. Coal tar sealant products contain polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), which are a group of organic chemicals formed during the incomplete burning of coal, oil, gas, or other organic substances. Scientific studies have shown that these products are a primary source of contaminants in bodies of water.

Executive Analyst Helm moved through the draft ordinance that was established by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. It was requested that the exemption clause be removed from the ordinance. It was also requested that staff research the difference between undiluted and diluted coal tar-based sealant products to see if there is information available to determine what an acceptable level of dilution for public safety is. This item will be brought forward at a future Planning Commission meeting for a public hearing.

**5. COMMISSION AND STAFF REPORTS**

**Admin. Anderson** – The City is submitting another grant application to DEED and Met Council for the Knauff site. There is a potential developer for the site. The Planning Commission will be reviewing a Joint Powers Agreement at the next meeting for the Red Rock Corridor between the City and the Housing Redevelopment Area. The City continues to work with the County and Stantec to develop the transit station. There is an EDA meeting after the April 19, 2012 City Council meeting. The EDA will be looking at a facade improvement application for the new Mastertech Auto store.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

No new business

**7. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**A. Upcoming Meetings and Events:**

- |                                |                |           |
|--------------------------------|----------------|-----------|
| 1. Comprehensive Plan Workshop | April 17, 2012 | 6:00 p.m. |
| 2. City Council Meeting        | April 19, 2012 | 5:30 p.m. |
| 3. Park Board Meeting          | April 26, 2012 | 7:00 p.m. |
| 4. City Council Meeting        | May 3, 2012    | 5:30 p.m. |
| 5. Planning Commission Meeting | May 10, 2012   | 7:00 p.m. |

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by McElwee-Stevens, seconded by Prestegaard, to adjourn the Planning Commission Meeting at 8:28 P.M. With 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, the motion carried.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Lindoo, Chairperson

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Helm  
Executive Analyst