

## **PLANNING, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, July 5, 2011

Administrative Center – Room 3220

3:30 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Don Meyer, Don Bina, Vicki Burke (for Dennis Manthei), Bob Keil, Beverly Mach, Marilyn Pedretti, Tina Wehrs

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Dennis Manthei

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Marlane Anderson

**STAFF & GUESTS:** Steve O'Malley, Jeff Bluske, Gregg Stangl, Margaret Norden, Dave Lange, Mary Meehan-Strub, Maureen Freedland, Keith Carson, Mary Wiemeyer, Craig Breitspecher, Nick Nichols, Jake VandeBerg, Jeff Schroeder, Mike Weibel, Barb Kooiman, Chris Fechner, Dana Fisher, Roz Laraway, Karl Green, Bonnie Pickett, Lori White, Carmen DeYoe, Patricia Hurley, Meri Sue Erdmann, Anita Roegel, Mike Roles, Rich Kastenschmidt, Hank Zumach, Heidi Blanke, Barbara Strohm, Jerry Strohm, Ryan Roberts, Sue Knopf, Karen Ringstrom, Kathie Tyser, Don McCrery, Jane Rada, Karla Ferris, Wendy Mattison

### **DISCUSS SIGN ORDINANCE OPTIONS**

Steve O'Malley reported that since there were no specific proposals or recommendations on a sign ordinance, the committee would need to give direction to staff. He recommended that the issue of signs be handled separately from the overall zoning ordinance. He gave the following options for consideration of a sign ordinance:

- A supervisor could introduce legislation for sign regulations;
- The sign companies could have another supervisor sponsor their own proposal;
- The committee could direct details of an ordinance and give direction to Corporation Counsel.

Dave Lange provided background on the scope of the current county ordinance and a comparison with state regulations. Supervisor Freedland reported on her ordinance draft and revisions that were provided to the committee. She stated her proposed ordinance is based on standards in Columbia County that in turn were based on those in St. Croix County. She stated that the amount, size, and type of signage has an impact on attracting people to the community, affects property values, and affects the standards in "The Natural Step," which the County has adopted as its guide for sustainability. She pointed out that approximately 23 members of the public were in attendance in support of a stricter ordinance. Keith Carson, representing Olympus, provided comments on the proposed ordinance, and stated their desire is to have simple, clear rules that are easy to understand and enforce. Craig Breitspecher, representing La Crosse Sign, pointed out that off-premise and on-premise signs were different and shouldn't be lumped together. Ryan Roberts, also from La Crosse Sign, spoke about their experience dealing with various municipalities, and their efforts to follow local ordinances. Lengthy committee discussion followed regarding procedure, and whether to have the two parties meet to attempt to reach some consensus, or to have an ordinance brought to committee and to then receive reaction and input.

**MOTION** by Pedretti/Mach to direct Supervisor Freedland to work with Corporation Counsel to draft a sign ordinance that will come back to the Planning, Resources and Development Committee. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 31, 2011**

**MOTION** by Keil/Pedretti approve the minutes of May 31, 2011. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None requested.

## **SUPERVISOR CONFERENCE REPORTS**

Supervisor Mach gave a detailed report on the WACEC conference, which was also attended by Supervisors Bina and Keil. The theme was "New Frontiers and New Opportunities."

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION** by Pedretti/Bina to receive and file the following consent agenda items. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- a. Board of Adjustment minutes of 5/16/11
- b. Historic Sites Preservation Commission minutes 6/3/11
- c. Farmland Preservation/PACE Committee minutes of 4/19/11 & 6/16/11
- d. Sustainable La Crosse Commission minutes of 5/26/11

## **UW-EXTENSION WRITTEN REPORTS**

The April-June, 2011, UW Extension staff report and La Crosse County Fair brochure were distributed. Mary Meehan-Strub answered questions about their program for at-risk youth.

## **RESOLUTION RE: DESIGNATION OF STRIPED SCHOOL AS A LA CROSSE COUNTY HISTORIC SITE**

The Resolution states that the Striped School in the Town of Burns is an excellent example of a one-room schoolhouse. It was in continuous operation from 1859 to 1963 and is preserved in its original state. The striping on the exterior gave the school its name.

**MOTION** by Keil/Mach to approve the Resolution Re: Designation of Striped School as a La Crosse County Historic Site. **Motion carried unanimously.**

## **RESOLUTION RE: DESIGNATION OF MIDDLE RIDGE "LITTLE SCHOOL" AS A LA CROSSE COUNTY HISTORIC SITE**

The Resolution states that the Middle Ridge "Little School" in the Town of Washington has a unique history of having had Roman Catholic nuns serve as public school teachers. The building is intact, and the owner is committed to its preservation. **MOTION** by Bina/Wehrs to approve the Resolution Re: Designation of Middle Ridge "Little School" as a La Crosse County Historic Site. **Motion carried unanimously.**

## **DISCUSS AND ACT ON REQUEST OF HISTORIC SITES COMMISSION ORDINANCE CHANGES**

Jeff Bluske reported that the Historic Sites Preservation Commission, which is under the oversight of the Planning, Resources and Development Committee, wants to be able to review any proposed improvements to designated historic sites to ensure those sites are maintained with their historic character intact. Barb Kooiman, vice-chair of the HSPC, answered questions about the commission's work and the need for more oversight of property changes or demolition of historic properties. Supervisor Bina requested that a presentation be made to the PRD committee about the HSPC's preservation efforts.

**MOTION** by Bina/Keil to direct Corporation Counsel to work on an ordinance that will come back to the Planning, Resources and Development Committee. **Motion carried unanimously.**

## **ACCESS EASEMENT FOR P&B HUNDT TRUST**

Jeff Bluske presented a request for an easement from the P&B Hundt Trust. Chris Fechner, the surveyor, provided a survey map, and took questions about access. Bluske recommended approval with the condition that there could be no other users allowed.

**MOTION** by Wehrs/Bina to approve the P&B Hundt Trust access easement with the condition that no other users are allowed to use the easement. **Motion carried unanimously.**

## **PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC INPUT ON ZONING ORDINANCE REWRITE**

Charlie Handy reported on attending a number of town meetings, and his plans to attend the remainder this month. The most feedback has been regarding the number of animal units allowed in Agriculture District A. The second biggest issue has been with sign regulation. He also has heard comments about the timing, and that changes are coming too fast. He suggested having two "flips", or approving the ordinance draft, and then the comprehensive map, with a one-year process to amend the maps. Committee consensus was that this was a reasonable approach.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Presentation by Historic Sites Preservation Commission
- Approval of setting a second comprehensive map amendment for 12 months after the effective date of the proposed Comprehensive Rewrite of the La Crosse County Zoning Ordinance
- Approval of increasing the maximum square footage allowed where no permit is required to construct detached accessory buildings

## **RECESS**

**MOTION** by Bina/Pedretti to recess until the 6:00 p.m. public hearing. **Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting recessed at 5:05 p.m.

**Approved,** August 1, 2011, Margaret Norden, Recorder