

PLANNING COMMISSION

April 18, 2019

The City of Portage Planning Commission meeting of April 18, 2019 was called to order by Chairman Stoffer at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of Portage City Hall, 7900 South Westnedge Avenue. No citizens were in attendance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Stoffer led the Commission, staff and citizens in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Christopher Forth, Deputy Director of Planning, Development & Neighborhood Services; Michael West, Senior City Planner and Charlie Bear, City Attorney.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Forth called the roll: Fries (yes); Pezzoli (yes); Baldwin (yes); Joshi (yes); Schimmel (yes); Stoffer (yes); Corradini (yes); Patterson (yes); and Harrell-Page (yes). All members were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Stoffer referred the Commission to the March 21, 2019 meeting minutes contained in the agenda packet. A motion was made by Commissioner Patterson, seconded by Commissioner Harrell-Page, to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was unanimously approved 9-0.

SITE/FINAL PLANS:

None.

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Preliminary Report: Ordinance Amendment #18/19-A: Sign Amendments. Mr. Forth referred the Commission to the April 12, 2019 staff report and summarized the proposed amendments to the sign regulations. Mr. Forth indicated the amendments have been initiated by the Department of Community Development and the Office of the City Attorney based upon the June 2015 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Reed v Town of Gilbert, Arizona* that struck down content-based sign regulations. In light of this decision, Mr. Forth stated that several sections of the sign regulations contained in the Zoning Code have been modified to eliminate references to content (message) displayed on a sign. Mr. Forth indicated the proposed amendments are intended to improve clarity and/or to address content neutrality issues. Mr. Forth stated the proposed amendments were initially presented and discussed with the Planning Commission at the March 21, 2019 meeting.

Mr. Forth and Attorney Bear next reviewed the sections of the sign ordinance proposed for amendments including the Intent and Purpose, Definitions, Signs not permitted, Electronic or mechanical sign elements, Sign permitted and the various zoning district sections. The Commission and staff discussed various aspects of the proposed changes including flags, government signs and election signs.

The public hearing was then opened by Chairman Stoffer. No citizens were present to speak regarding the proposed sign amendments. A motion was then made by Commissioner Joshi, seconded Commissioner Schimmel, to adjourn the public hearing for Ordinance Amendment #18/19-A to the May 2, 2019 meeting. The motion was unanimously approved 9-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

STATEMENT OF CITIZENS/COMMISSIONERS:

Commissioner Pezzoli indicated he would not be present at the May 2, 2019 meeting.
Commissioner Corradini also indicated he would not be present at the May 2, 2019 meeting.
Commissioner Baldwin stated she may not be present at the May 16, 2019 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the regularly scheduled meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Forth, AICP
Deputy Director of Planning, Development and Neighborhood Services