

City Planning Commission

Erie, Pennsylvania

October 16, 2018

-Minutes-

The regular meeting of the City Planning Commission was held Tuesday, October 16, 2018 at 1:00 pm in Room 500 of the City of Erie Municipal Building, 626 State Street, Erie PA.

1. *Call to Order / Roll Call*

Member Name	Present	Absent
Thomas Dworzanski, Chair		X
Don Marinelli, Vice-Chair		X
Armand Chimenti	X	
Mark Kloecker	X	
Richard Speicher	X	

Three of five members present; quorum achieved

2. *Approval of the September 18, 2018 meeting minutes.* On a motion by Mr. Kloecker, seconded by Mr. Chimenti, the Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve the September 18, 2018 meeting minutes as received.

3. *Review of revised draft language regarding a City Council resolution which “respectfully requests the Planning Commission to consider implementing additional sign code regulations... and refer back to City Council with recommendations thereon.”*

Mr. Welsh provided an update to the members regarding the proposed amendments to the sign regulations contained in Section 303 of the City of Erie Zoning Ordinance. He indicated that the City Solicitor’s office was provided with a copy of the September draft for their review comments. They responded with a suggested revision to one sentence of the amendment language, which Mr. Welsh incorporated into the draft and provided to the members.

Mr. Welsh indicated that he also consulted with the City Solicitor to address the previous question of applying and enforcing the new standards to pre-existing illuminated signs. He indicated that the City Solicitor’s office responded by stating that:

- The regulations are prospective but would apply to all signs;
- There is no “grandfathering” principle involved;
- Illuminated signs would need to comply with the regulations.

After further discussion, the Planning Commission recommended the amendments to the sign section of the ordinance be approved based on the grounds that:

1. The current ordinance language does not adequately address these types of signs;
2. The proposed amendments were developed based on research of sign ordinances in PA, including model ordinances prepared by the PA Planning Association, to determine the most common and appropriate regulation standards for illuminated signs, electronic displays and message centers;
3. The proposed amendments are consistent with the City of Erie Comprehensive Plan.

On a motion by Mr. Speicher, seconded by Mr. Kloecker, the Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend that Council approve the proposed amendments as revised.

4. *Being no further business; the meeting adjourned.*