

***City of Erie Planning Commission  
Erie, Pennsylvania  
June 19, 2018***

***-Minutes-***

The regular meeting of the City Planning Commission was held Tuesday, June 19, 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*

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

Five of five members present; quorum achieved

2. *Approval of the April 17, 2018 meeting minutes.* On a motion by Mr. Kloecker, seconded by Mr. Speicher, the Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve the April 17, 2018 meeting minutes as received. [there was no May 2018 meeting]
3. *Review of a City Council resolution which “respectfully requests the Planning Commission to consider implementing additional sign code regulations specifically related to LED Readerboards on their speed of message changes, brightness and time of use and refer back to City Council with recommendations thereon.”*

Mr. Welsh read the resolution language and provided additional background information pertaining to the request. He indicated that there had been a recent inquiry about the City’s current sign regulations specific to electronic message boards, and a concern expressed that the current regulations contained in the City of Erie Zoning Ordinance may not address or regulate those types of signs adequately.

Mr. Welsh then read through and discussed the current sign regulations that do apply to electronic message boards, indicating that these types of signs are considered illuminated signs, which are specifically addressed in the ordinance. He also mentioned that in general, the current sign regulations dictate sign dimensions and location requirements by zoning district, as well as where illuminated signs are permitted or disallowed. It was recognized that more specific language could be inserted to address other electronic message boards characteristics.

Several illuminated / message board sign locations throughout the City were discussed briefly; with regards to brightness, flashing or moving messages, and times of operation. Ms. Freda Tepfer noted there are potential health concerns associated with flashing lights and mentioned some specific locations that were concerning. Mr. Welsh mentioned that the locations brought to the zoning office's attention have already been investigated and were found to be in compliance.

Mr. Welsh indicated that the zoning office would begin to research other sign ordinances to determine regulation standards for these types of signs and prepare any appropriate draft language for the planning commission's consideration.

4. *Review of City Planning Commission By-laws*

Mr. Welsh provided copies of the bylaws and additional background information pertaining to the bylaws. He indicated that there had been a recent inquiry about how the planning commission receives public comment during the meetings; since there is not a separate agenda item for public comment listed.

It was indicated that the planning commission has historically been receiving public comments via informal participation during agenda discussion. This method has proven to be very effective in the past since it provides for meaningful public participation for the planning commission members to consider while deliberating on agenda items. This has led to the planning commission making more informed decisions. Upon further discussion it was determined that this public participation method would continue for future meetings.

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