

READING PLANNING COMMISSION

CITY OF READING

February 8, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by chair Betty Blount. The meeting was held remotely using Zoom. Members present were Betty Blount, Warren Bartels, Chuck Hartshorn, Rebecca Matz, and Lacy George. Absent was Chad Penney/excused. Also present were Ben Wheeler, Kym Blythe, Michelle Bennett, and one guest, Mitzi Begley. Chuck made a motion, seconded by Rebecca, to approve the January minutes. Motion carried 5-0. The agenda was accepted as presented with one addition to New Business.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: The commission reviewed an application for appointment to the Planning Commission by Richard Smith, 5375 Paradise Dr., Reading, Michigan. It was noted that Mr. Smith has some highly useful qualifications and background that could be beneficial to the Planning Commission. As Mr. Smith does not live within the city, discussion turned to whether there would be any qualification for appointment that he would fit under. At this time the commission did not see any obvious one. Ben will check further as to whether the Michigan Planning and Enabling Act dovetails with ours. Betty had made a motion to accept Mr. Smith's application but there was no second.

There have been a number of applications for Temporary Canopy Structures. These are permitted in the residential zone for a time not to exceed 60 days without Planning Commission approval according to the 2019 City of Reading Property Maintenance Code Book Section 302. Some discussion ensued about its long-term desirability and helpfulness to homeowners. Warren made a motion, seconded by Chuck, to affirm the Code's 60-day policy and not extend time to applicants. A roll call vote was taken. Yeas: Warren, Chuck, Betty, and Lacy. Nay: Rebecca.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2021.

OLD BUSINESS: Michelle Bennett of Beckett and Raeder reviewed the Master Plan Adoption Process with us. We are at Step 3 which requires Planning Commission review and possible recommendation to the City Council to continue on through the adoption process with it.

Michelle asked us for any observations first and then led us through the highlights of the different sections of the draft. Some comments from the group and Kym centered around schools, health, and the sanitary system. One other thing to note was attention to the International Property and Maintenance Codes adopted by the City in 2019 to help with monitoring, enforcing, and helping owners in various areas. Kym and the City will keep working on this in this area. Warren made a motion, seconded by Chuck, to recommend the draft with

the various areas amended as noted to City Council for distribution and agency review as required in Step 3. Motion carried 5-0.

With that, Chuck made a motion, seconded by Rebecca, to adjourn at 8:50. Motion carried 5-0.