

NEWPORT CITY PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

April 5th, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Charles Elliott, Robert Currier, Clark Curtis, Woodman Page, and Dan Ross

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Pam Ladds

7:00 p.m. Chair Charles Elliott called the meeting to order. Robert Currier moved to approve the minutes of the March 8th, 2016 meeting. This was seconded by Clark Curtis. **APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS DECISION.**

7:05 p.m. Editing Review to City's Zoning Bylaw Article 4 (Note: Line 421 through 438): Charles Elliott recommended that commission members individually read and edit the remaining portion of Article 4. Commission members are to identify grammatical mistakes and also to have available suggested changes for the next meeting. The original agenda had listed proposed changes to Bylaw Section 427-B (Animals) further on, but since the commission was discussing changes within Article 4 it was decided to include agenda item five in the current discussions. Robert Currier moved that agenda item five be moved to the present discussion and that the remaining items within the agenda remain in order. This was seconded by Clark Curtis. **APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS DECISION.**

7:15 p.m. Proposed changes to Bylaw Section 427-B Animals: Charles Elliott distributed a draft addition to Section 427-B. The draft stated the following: **Individual residential home owners may have a maximum of six (6) fowl on standard residential lots subject to the following restrictions. They must be caged and/or fenced in such a manner that they are restricted to the property owners' property. All males (roosters) must be culled prior to maturity. Crowing roosters and/or fowl running loose in the neighborhood will result in citations for zoning violations and possible fines.** Charles Elliott explained that with spring's arrival that his office is receiving a number of calls complaining about fowl running loose. There was a proposal to inform the City Council that a warning be placed in the newspaper and that all individuals in violation of the ruling would be fined. The current bylaw states that the raising of certain livestock to include fowl is prohibited unless the lot size is at least three acres. Chair Elliott stated that he was simply trying to keep fowl from running loose throughout neighborhoods. Dan Ross and Clark Curtis strongly objected to the manner in which the proposal would be enacted. Clark Curtis suggested that normal procedures be followed with a report on the issue and that Chair Elliott draft the changes to the bylaw for the commission's next meeting and future hearings. Dan Ross agreed that this was the way to proceed. Clark Curtis also suggested that Chair Elliott might want to also include the recent proposed material on residential care homes.

7: 52 p.m. Editing Review of Bylaw Article 5: Dan Ross moved that review of Bylaw Article 5 be tabled until the next meeting. This was seconded by Robert Currier.
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS DECISION.

8: 02 p.m. Other Business: Robert Currier informed the commission that he had personally reviewed some of the street signs that had been previously discussed as obstructing motorist's vision and confirmed that there were some violations to Article 416B (Obstruction of Vision).

Dan Ross related a story of a person who is raising a foster child that was attending a preschool program in Newport Center which is now closed. It was pointed out that the commission rarely discusses the youth within our community and how a number of them have major problems. Dan Ross asked that the commission give some thought to this issue.

Clark Curtis reminded Chair Elliott that it was time to begin preparations for another Historical Preservation Commission Meeting.

8:23 p.m Next Meeting: The next meeting will be scheduled for April 19th, 2016 at 7p.m.

8:26 p.m. Woodman Page made a motion to adjourn. This was seconded by Robert Currier. **APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS DECISION.**

Minutes taken and transcribed by Woodman Page

Approved:  Date: 4-28-16