

CITY OF ITHACA
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, December 11, 2018
7:00 PM

In the absence of the Chair, City Manager Yonker was asked to chair the meeting. The regular meeting of the Ithaca Planning Commission was called to order by Manager Yonker at 7:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Present: Commissioners Doug Wright, Richard Teal, Jerry Timmons and Mayor Alice Schafer

Absent: Chair John Wilson, Commissioners Alison Jerome and Dale Sherman

Staff Present: City Manager Chris Yonker and Deputy Clerk Cathy Cameron

Audience Present: Rob Endter

Motion by Timmons, second by Wright to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held August 14, 2018; motion carried.

Public Comments

Manager Yonker asked for any public comments; none were given.

New Business

Acting Chair Yonker presented the regular monthly meeting schedule for calendar year 2019. (January 15, February 12, March 12, April 9, May 14, June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, October 8, November 12 and December 10, 2019)

Motion by Teal, second by Schafer to accept the meeting schedule as submitted; motion carried.

Acting Chair Yonker highlighted the State Statute on Zoning Board of Appeals appointments. After review of the current membership, changes may need to be made. The Planning Commission representative also serves as a City Council Member, and there is already a member serving as representative from the City Council. The Board discussed the representation and determined that the Planning Commission representative should be another member of the Planning Commission. Acting Chair Yonker asked the members present if they had interest in serving on the Zoning Board of Appeals; none were available to serve at this time. With no interest, the alternate option would be to fill the position with a member-at-large from the community. Acting Chair Yonker encouraged the Planning Commission members help in this recruitment and then highlighted the roles of the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals going forward.

Acting Chair Yonker informed the Board of the first variance request that was presented at the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting on December 6, 2018. He briefly reviewed the information and new format that will be used to determine all requests brought before the Board.

Acting Chair Yonker stated that a public hearing needed to be set to review and take comments on amendments to zoning code; Zoning Ordinance Amendments: Recreational Marihuana Establishments. He informed the board that an emergency Ordinance was adopted by the City Council on December 4, 2018 to prohibit marihuana establishments within the City.

Motion by Teal, second by Wright to set a public hearing to review and take comments for Zoning Ordinance Amendments; Recreational Marihuana Establishments for January 15, 2019 at 7:00pm or as soon thereafter as the agenda allows; motion carried.

Old Business

City Manager Yonker reported that he had received a welcome letter from the MEDC Redevelopment Ready Communities Program planner. He highlighted the program and provided an update on the process necessary for the City to achieve certification.

Transmittals

Manager Yonker highlighted the City Manager Activity Reports for November 16th and November 30, 2018.

Public Comments

Acting Chair Yonker asked for any additional public comments; none were given.

Motion by Timmons, second by Wright to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m.; motion carried.

Dale Sherman, Commission Secretary

Cathy Cameron, Recording Secretary