

**City of Lake Elmo  
Planning Commission Meeting  
Minutes of June 8, 2009**

Chairman Van Zandt called to order the meeting of the Lake Elmo Planning Commission at 7:00 p.m. COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Anderson, Britz, Hall, McGinnis, Pearson, and Van Zandt. Absent: Bidon, Fliflet, Van Erem, and Ziertman. STAFF PRESENT: Planning Director Klatt and Planner Matzek.

**Agenda**

**Minutes – April 22, 2009**

Commissioner Pearson was in attendance at the meeting.  
M/S/P, Hall/Pearson, approve as amended. Vote: 6:0.

*May 11, 2009*

M/S/P, Anderson/Hall, approve as presented. Vote: 4:0. Abstension: McGinnis and Pearson.

**Public Hearing – None**

**Business Items – Discussion of Economic Development Activity**

Planning Director Klatt summarized what economic development means, how that activity pertains to Lake Elmo and to provide input to the Council regarding potential activities and standards.

Chairman Van Zandt stated that cities and/or a state can offer incentives to businesses to locate in their jurisdiction, should the government choose to utilize one of those incentives. He said that like nearby cities have done, Lake Elmo needs to think about what would make the city a destination and then what other amenities are needed to support the destination location. He said that transportation is an issue as the city does not have a park and ride or much for bus routes.

Commissioner Hall said you notice where Lake Elmo's boundaries are when you drive on the main routes as the city is markedly different than neighboring communities. The city must have different policies and those should be identified.

Planning Director Klatt stated that the city has taken some strict stances in the Comprehensive Plan with the land use guidance and in the city code. This has restricted what can be done, some of which find this to be a positive.

Commissioner McGinnis said she would like to support the path of being proactive in the economic development. She said she leans more to inclusivity and is nervous about identifying which businesses should be included.

Commissioner Anderson said she thinks a vision statement would be helpful although there is current mention of the rural character of the city.

Commissioner Pearson said it might be helpful to come up with a list of existing businesses in the city and see if they have some thoughts of missing opportunities.

Commissioner McGinnis suggested polling other cities of a similar size to see how they went about promoting economic development in their communities.

Commissioner Anderson said the city will receive helpful data with the 2010 census.

The commission felt this was a worthwhile effort and the commission would like to be involved.

**Business Item – *Future Meeting Schedule and Long-Range Planning Issues***

Planning Director Klatt suggested that specific meetings or times be set for review of long-range planning issues at the commission meetings especially with upcoming development in the city.

The commission felt a second meeting a month would be worthwhile beginning in September as long as the agendas were well utilized.

**City Council Updates**

Planning Director Klatt identified that the Comprehensive Transportation Plan was approved on May 19, 2009 at the Council meeting.

Planner Matzek said that the Hugel variance at 2931 Jonquil Trail North was approved after the site plan had been revised to be more in conformance with the recommendation of the commission.

Planning Director Klatt identified that an open house was planning to be held that Wednesday for the Wireless Telecommunication Tower Ordinance.

Planning Director Klatt said that a predominant planner was giving a free talk in the upcoming weeks and encouraged commissioners to contact him if they would like to attend.

Adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelli Matzek  
Planner