

**VILLAGE OF SPARTA
PLANNING COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
April 4, 2022 @ 7:00 PM
75 N. Union St. (Sparta Civic Center)**

Present: Chairman Gary Moody, Commission members Jon Braybrook, Robert Carlstrom, Rose Frederick, Emilie Henry, Betty Van Patten, Robert Whalen, and Ryan Wolford.

Absent: Bob Liscombe

Also present: Shay Gallagher (Village Manager), and Katy Shelton (Village Clerk).

- 1) CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited at that time.
- 2) ROLL CALL: Formal roll call was taken. Those in attendance/absent are noted above.
- 3) MINUTES
 - a. Approve Regular Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of March 7 2022. Motion made by Carlstrom with a second by Van Patten to approve. Motion passed unanimously.
- 4) ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA – APPROVAL OF AGENDA: None
- 5) PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None
- 6) COMMUNICATIONS: Deferred until the Village Manager’s report.
- 7) PUBLIC HEARING: opened at 7:08 pm.
 - a. Public Hearing – Lamoreaux Brothers Veterans Memorial Park Master Plan Presentation: A brief synopsis was given by Marlise Manning from Manning Design. She emphasized that this was a “roadmap for the future” and said that that virtually all communities undertake projects like this one in stages over many years.
 - b. Greg Hunt (255 Park St): Very concerned about the proposed changes attracting older kids to the park. Currently the police have had to be called multiple times due to loud noise, profanity, and vandalism. He would also like to see more green space left.
 - c. Jim Schultz (137 Park St.): The park needs more lighting to discourage older kids from just “hanging out” late at night. He was concerned that the actual neighbors who surround the park did not complete the survey, so their views weren’t taken into consideration with the proposed master plan. He said that it’s a true neighborhood park designed for younger kids, and they’d like to keep it that way.
 - d. Ron Stevenson (82 W Averill): Currently, most people who use the park walk to it. Attracting older kids, especially by installing a basketball court, will increase the number of people who drive to the park, which causes a lot of issues since it’s such a confined area.
 - e. Kristy Dugan (298 Pine St): Please rescale the master plan. We don’t want a basketball court, We need the t-ball field and more open space. Roger’s Park is for the older kids.

Leave Lamoreaux for the younger kids. Focus on Shorty's Monument with a walking path and green space.

- f. Commissioner Whalen: Shorty's Monument is a great idea. This is a neighborhood park. It doesn't need a basketball court. This is something that they are trying to add to the new SRA Sports Park.
- g. Commissioner Van Patten: When the skate park was first installed, there were a myriad of problems. When/if we develop Lamoreaux Park, the Village needs to be diligent in enforcing rules and regulations to make sure things don't get out of hand.
- h. Commissioner Braybrook: we don't need a basketball court there.
- i. Public hearing closed at 7:57pm.
- j. Village Manager Gallagher said that this would be a gradual plan over perhaps ten years. The immediate focus will be on screening the portajohns and the placement of Shorty's Monument.

8) NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Driveway Discussion: The proposed new amendment would increase the maximum allowable driveway size in residential districts from 25% of the front yard to 35% of the front yard. Consensus from the Council to move forward with this. Village Manager Gallagher will bring a draft ordinance to the next Commission meeting.
- b. Snow Removal Ordinance Discussion: The current ordinance requires the Village to notify property owners who are in violation via first class mail and by posting a notice on the property. This is problematic for a number of reasons. Village staff would like to remove the requirement that owners are notified before the Village undertakes to remove the snow itself. Staff will make it procedural that the property owner is notified in some manner which will be left to the discretion of the Village staff. The consensus of the Commission was to move forward with that.
- c. International Property Maintenance Code Update: Village staff seeks to update the IPMC from the 2000 edition to the most recent 2021 code. The consensus of the Commission was to move forward with that.

9) UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. None.

10) PUBLIC COMMENT: Kristy Dugan thanked the Commission for listening to her and her neighbors.

11) VILLAGE MANAGER REPORT: Village Manager Gallagher reported on Sowing Seeds Child Care's proposed minor expansion; Choice One's refurbishment of the Ann Marie's Beauty Salon building into office space; and said that the Village had hired a new Code Enforcement officer, Deborah DeGroot, who has worked in Cedar Springs in that capacity for the past four years. He also gave updates on the Alt property as well as the 220/228 E Division property.

12) COMMISSION COMMENT: Question by Commissioner Whalen on the status of the "house on stilts" on State St. Manager Gallagher responded that he is working with the owner to get the house permanently secured.

Question by Commission Moody as to whether the proposed Sowing Seeds expansion will require additional parking. Manager Gallagher will check into that.

13) ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Moody at 8:22pm.

Submitted by Katy Shelton, Village Clerk