

**Minutes of the Planning Commission  
Of the City of Portland**  
Held on Wednesday, May 8, 2013  
In Council Chambers at City Hall

Portland Planning Commission Members Present: Grapentien, Krause, Swaney-Frederick, Clement, Kmetz, Gorman

Staff: City Manager Dempsey, City Clerk Miller

Guests: Carrie Johnson

Chair Grapentien opened the meeting at 7:03 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Krause, supported by Clement, to accept the Agenda as presented.  
All in favor. Approved.

Motion by Krause, supported by Kmetz, to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2012 meeting as presented.  
All in favor. Approved.

Chair Grapentien opened the Public Hearing at 7:05 P.M.

Under New Business, City Manager Dempsey introduced Carrie Johnson who inquired about raising ducks for eggs; instead of chickens, as her son is allergic to chicken eggs. Ordinance 8A allows the raising of chickens but is specific enough to not allow the raising of ducks.

Ms. Johnson presented a PowerPoint presentation proposing changed to Ordinance 8A (The Chicken Ordinance) to allow Muscovy ducks; as they are the most quiet breed of ducks. Ms. Johnson played audio clips of chicken hens, and various types of ducks including the Muscovy ducks in order to substantiate how quiet the Muscovy ducks are.

The specific changes to Ordinance 8A being proposed were discussed.

City Manager Dempsey stated the Ordinance allows 4 hens and Ms. Johnson is requesting 6 ducks be allowed. He inquired why she is requesting an increase in the number allowed.

Ms. Johnson stated it is because of the number of eggs the Muscovy ducks lay.

There was continued discussion of the issue.

Member Krause stated she does not feel positively about having farm animals as neighbors but she also recognizes the changing times and that many individuals are trying to be more organic in their food sources. Member Krause stated her overall concern is the “slippery slope” created by expanding the animals allowed and what other individuals may request.

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Member Gorman concurred with Member Krause. He recognized the concerns Ms. Johnson has and the request is reasonable in light of the current Ordinance. He further stated he would not likely be in favor of this proposal as he wouldn't have been in favor of the original Ordinance allowing chickens had he been on the Planning Commission at the time. He would be open to holding a Public Hearing in order to receive input and feedback from the community. He thanked Ms. Johnson for her informational presentation.

Vice Chair Clement agreed that she would also be open to holding a Public Hearing on the issue. The presentation by Ms. Johnson alleviated many of her initial concerns.

City Manager Dempsey there are protections in Ordinance 8A. The pen required in the Ordinance must be at least 40 feet from a neighbor and the enclosure of the pen will further deaden sounds from the animals.

City Manager Dempsey stated the proposed amendments to Ordinance 8A address any concerns the City may have.

Vice Chair Clement recommended the Planning Commission move forward with a Public Hearing on the issue.

The Planning Commission discussed possible Sign Ordinance amendments of Section 28-6 (p) to recognize Marine Grade Plywood and MDO Board as appropriate materials for signs less than 32 sq. ft.

City Manager Dempsey stated this issue came up when an individual installing a sign wanted to use plywood as a supporting structure. The concern the Ordinance addresses is that an individual not be allowed to use plywood as an actual sign. The argument was made that there are differing grades of plywood that could be used that don't require maintenance and could withstand the weather.

There was discussion of the issue.

Chair Grapentien suggested the issue be resolved by separating the "sign" and "supporting structure" in the Ordinance; which are currently addressed in the same paragraph.

Member Gorman concurred with Chair Grapentien.

City Manager noted the issue should be handled carefully as wording could allow a sign to be constructed of plywood, painted and stenciled. He doesn't believe this is the type of signs the City wants to allow.

The members concurred that they don't want to allow those types of signs.

Vice Chair Clement commented she is very nervous about taking on any part of judging aesthetics.

There was discussion of types of materials and their longevity.

City Manager noted that this issue has come up only once in the last 10 years.

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Member Gorman stated he didn't necessarily see the need to change the Ordinance if there really is no need. He further stated he would like to give the business owners a chance to be heard at a Public Hearing if they feel an amendment in regard to this issue would be beneficial to them.

The members concurred.

City Manager Dempsey clarified a possible amendment would allow plywood to be used as a supporting structure for up to a 32 sq. ft. sign; not for the sign material itself.

There was continued discussion.

Under Planning Commission Comments, Vice Chair Clement reminded everyone that the Downtown Block Party will be held on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. A juried art show will be held after the Block Party at Rafael's Marketplace.

Motion by Clement, supported by Krause, to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 P.M.  
All in favor. Approved.

Respectfully submitted,

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John Kmetz, Secretary