

**Minutes of the Planning Commission
Of the City of Portland**
Held on Wednesday, August 8, 2012
In Council Chambers at City Hall

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

Absent: Krause

Staff: City Manager Dempsey, Code Officer Brown, City Clerk Miller

Guests: None

Chair Grapentien opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Kmetz, supported by Gorman, to accept the amended Agenda to excuse Member Krause. All in favor. Approved.

Motion by Kmetz, supported by Gorman, to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2012 meeting as presented. All in favor. Approved.

Under New Business, City Manager Dempsey presented and explained the purpose of the Grand River Access Management Plan. It is an Ordinance of the City with the purpose of reducing the number of drives along the Grand River Ave. business corridor. Any changes to the Ordinance would go to the City Council for approval. Changes to the access drives per the Access Management Plan occur when property owners make changes to site plans. City Staff is not proposing any changes at this time; the plan is being distributed for review.

There was discussion about changes to the Grand River Ave. corridor that have occurred.

Chair Grapentien stated the plan could be cleaned up.

City Manager Dempsey stated the plan can be looked at to see what should be revised. The City Engineer can be consulted if needed. The writing can be done in-house.

City Manager Dempsey went through both the short-term and long-term goals on pages 5 and 6 of the Grand River Access Management Plan and addressed what has been accomplished.

City Manager Dempsey suggested the Planning Commission members take a look at the Plan and the Grand River Ave. business corridor and send their thoughts and suggestions to him for further discussion with the goal of presenting a more feasible plan to the Council.

City Manager Dempsey presented alternatives for temporary banner signs for possible changes to the Sign Ordinance.

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Vice Chair Clement suggested a quick survey of local businesses be done to obtain feedback on which alternative they would be most in favor of as none of the alternatives seem unreasonable.

Swaney-Frederick offered to put together and host an appropriate survey.

City Manager Dempsey stated he is continuing to research electronic reader board signs but has not found any good information for guidance or to compare to; specifically on size.

City Manager Dempsey inquired if the Planning Commission wants to specify a size on community event signs, typically by non-profit organizations, as this is an appropriate time to make that change as other changes are also being considered. Currently a 2' x 2' size limit is being enforced, the same as a non-commercial sign.

Vice-Chair Clement suggested different sizes for different districts.

There was discussion about possible options.

City Manager Dempsey asked the Planning Commission members to send him emails with their comments and suggestions.

Under Planning Commission Comments, City Manager Dempsey stated that Dennis Klein has bought property at the corner of Looking Glass Ave. and Divine Hwy. and will likely have a site plan for review before the end of the year to construct a building for his Mystic Flyrod business.

City Manager Dempsey also stated a house in Rindlehaven has been built and sold and there is another new house under construction on Green St.

Vice-Chair Clement commented Riverfest will be held August 17th – 20th with many fun activities.

City Manager Dempsey commented that there will be a circus held on Monday, August 20th sponsored by Riverfest as a fundraiser. The circus will be held at Bogue Flats with shows at 4:30 P.M. and 7:30 P.M.

Motion by Clement, supported by Kmetz, to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 P.M.
All in favor. Approved.

Respectfully submitted,

John Kmetz, Secretary