

**Minutes of the Planning Commission
Of the City of Portland**
Held on Wednesday, August 10, 2011
In Council Chambers at City Hall

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

Absent: Segerlind, Kmetz

Staff: City Manager Dempsey, City Clerk Miller, Code Officer Brown, and Camera Operator Cummins

Guests: None

Chairman Grapentien called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Swaney-Frederick, supported by Clement, to approve the Agenda with the addition of the approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on July 27, 2011 and to excuse absent members Kmetz and Segerlind.

All in favor. Approved.

Motion by Swaney-Frederick, supported by Gorman, to approve the Minutes of the July 13, 2011, regular meeting as presented.

All in favor. Approved.

Motion by Clement, supported by Gorman, to approve the Minutes of the July 27, 2011, special meeting as presented.

All in favor. Approved.

City Manager Dempsey presented professional information on wood-fired boilers and heating systems along with regulations from the Cities of Ionia and Belding and a model ordinance from Wisconsin. The model ordinance recommends a minimum distance of at least 300 ft. from adjacent properties for these types of systems. The Cities of Ionia and Belding both define the systems and then prohibit them.

Member Gorman stated that he had done research and is in favor of a full prohibition of wood-fired boilers and heating systems in the City of Portland based on the nuisances that can be created by them.

Vice Chair Swaney-Frederick stated that she had also done some research and agreed with Member Gorman as nuisances are created and they also don't match the character of the City.

Chair Grapentien stated that he also agreed. The Planning Commission is charged with looking out for the public health of the community, and the smoke created from these systems would not be good for residents of the City.

Secretary Clement also agreed with the other members. She also would like an ordinance in place to prohibit these types of systems.

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City Manager Dempsey stated that he would put together an ordinance. The Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing and then make a recommendation to the City Council at a future meeting.

City Manager Dempsey presented the Planning Commission Bylaws for discussion and to look at how business is conducted.

Secretary Clement recommended changing Section 3.7 to not require a roll call vote as this is not practice of the Planning Commission. A roll call vote has only been held when requested. She also suggested changing Section 3.4 accordingly as the number of members was changed to seven by Ordinance.

Chair Grapentien suggested looking at a revised copy of the Bylaws at the next meeting so they could be reviewed by the absent members.

Under Member Comments, Secretary Clement stated that Riverfest will be held August 19th – 21st and noted some of the many events that will be held.

City Manager Dempsey noted the road closings that will be in place for Riverfest.

Vice Chair Swaney-Frederick inquired if there are currently any City Ordinances regulating wood piles.

City Manager Dempsey stated there is not, but it may fall under the general nuisance ordinance if there is one creating problems.

Chair Grapentien commented on a recent letter to the editor complaining about the City removing yard-sale signs. He noted that garage sale signs are permitted if presented properly. They may not be placed on the City right-of-way. Residents are allowed to have one sign on their own property.

Motion by Clement, supported by Swaney-Frederick, to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 P.M.
All in favor. Approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Clement, Secretary