

**CITY OF ST. FRANCIS  
ST. FRANCIS, MN  
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES  
November 19, 2014**

1. **Call to Order:** The Planning Commission meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Skordahl.
2. **Roll Call:** Present were Brittney Berndt, Ray Steinke, William Murray, Rich Skordahl, Greg Zutz, and Todd Gardner. Also present were City Planner Nate Sparks and Building Official Andy Schreder.
3. **Adopt Agenda:** Motion by Murray, second by Steinke to approve the November 19, 2014 agenda. Motion carried 6-0.
4. **Oath of Office:** Chairman Skordahl officiated the oath of office for Brittney Berndt.
5. **Approve Minutes:** Motion by Murray, second by Steinke to approve the May 21, 2014 minutes. Motion carried 6-0.
6. **Public Comment:** None
7. **Temporary Sign Ordinance Discussion**  
Skordahl stated that the Chamber of Commerce Business Council would like to address the Commission regarding the Temporary Sign Ordinance. Joe Raus from the Chamber of Commerce presented proposed revisions to the sign ordinance requested by the Chamber Business Council. The revisions include increasing the duration of display of temporary signs from 120 days to 300 days per year, increasing the size of sign allowed from 32 square feet to 48 square feet, increasing the size allowed for sandwich board signs and allowing two per business, and allowing community event signs that do not count against the allowed sign display duration.

Skordahl questioned the length of time recommended. Schreder stated the building code only allows temporary uses up to 180 days per year. Skordahl stated he had no issue extending the time allowed to 180 days and before considering going beyond that a discussion with the City Attorney would be advisable. Raus stated that signs should not count as a temporary use. Steinke said temporary means short term. Murray said that Anoka only allows 90 days per year. Zutz questioned the need for 300 days of temporary signage per year. Raus stated that St. Francis is a unique community that is bifurcated and has no newspaper for advertising. There is no detriment to having more signage.

Sam Schudi of the Business Council said there should be a distinction between temporary and portable signs made. Short term signs communicate a message and the message can be lost if it is out there all the time. Temporary signs won't blow away and there are A frame signs that can withstand 50 mph winds.

Skordahl stated that 48 square feet for temp signs is reasonable, nine feet in height could be allowed, and that the proposed A frame sign standards seem to be acceptable. Sparks said the community event signs should be dealt with separately as it may require more research. Skordahl said 300 days per year seems to be too much and that 180 is more reasonable and fits with what the Building Official reports. Examples from other area

cities reviewed don't go beyond 180 days. Murray stated that temporary signs can be out too long and become another oak tree. Connie Tillman of the Business Council said that nobody knows the area businesses exist because there's no newspaper and not enough signage allowed.

Skordahl stated that Staff should come back with the revisions at a future meeting and discuss the matter with the City Attorney.

**8. Planning Commission Discussion**

Sparks stated that there was recently an administrative site plan review approved for a new retail store on Bridge Street.

- 9. Adjournment:** Motion by Steinke, second by Murray to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM. Motion carried 6-0.

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Nate Sparks, City Planner

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Date