

Minutes of the Porter Plan Commission

August 20, 2003

A. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

B. Pledge of allegiance

Present: Mr. Chemma, Mr. Liebert, Mr. Guy, Mr. Bell, and Mr. Eriksson. Absent: Mr. Grasher and Mr. Whisler. Quorum was established. Also present were Mr. Mandon and Mr. Hearn.

C. Consideration of minutes from previous meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting as written by Mr. Bell; second by Mr. Eriksson. Motion carried 5 - 0.

D. Audience Participation

None except for agenda item H-2 which are included in that section of the minutes.

E. Final Approvals

None

C. Preliminary Hearings

None

G. Public Hearings

None

H. Other Business

1. Report and review of the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Mandon informed the Commission that the first draft of chapters one through five is completed. He is still waiting for more school data and housing statistics to complete the remaining chapters. In response to Mr. Mandon's query on whether the Commission would like the chapters as they are completed or all at once the Commission chose all at once. In answer to a query from Mr. Bell on whether the proposed annexation will affect the current rewrite Mr. Mandon answered no, but it will warrant updates in the event the annexation passes. Mr. Mandon also passed to Commission members a handout of tables updating existing land uses, building permits and their valuations. In answer to a query by Mr. Eriksson the completed first draft will be ready for the next Plan Commission meeting (with no info on the proposed annexation included).

Motion to table the review of the Comprehensive Plan until a later date made by Mr. Bell, second by Mr. Eriksson. Motion carried 5 - 0.

2. Proposed Annexation Project. Mr. Chemma re-opened Audience Participation so those citizens living within the proposed annexation area could ask questions regarding zoning and land use issues. Mr. Mandon emphasized that the Plan

Commission was responsible for those two areas only and that people should ask their zoning and land use questions with the assumption that the annexation is passed by the Town Council. Mr. Bell stated several times he believes we have put the cart before the horse [because most of the people at the meeting wanted annexation questions answered and these should be brought before the Town Council].

Audience Participation (continued)

Karl Volkman, 1503 Clark Road: Concerns about existing landowners being able to hunt on their property, can they invite people, can they continue to hunt once R-1 homes are built next to their property, can existing landowners in Porter begin hunting on their property if the laws are changed to allow annexed property to do so.

Mrs. Read, 1453 N. Tremont Road: How much vacant land is there in Porter?

Beth Mesina, 1783 Hale Road: What does vacant land mean? What does Open Space mean? What is covered by R-1 zoning in Porter? Is the proposed Industrial zone a change or just what already exists? Do we have any say when a property near us is rezoned? What is done to enforce zoning issues?

Simon O'Connell, 1655 Hale Road: There is a covenant that gives permission for mobile homes to be in this area's subdivision; will Porter enforce this covenant?

Robin Carter, 1417 N. 230: I live in a trailer now, can I completely replace my existing home?

George Hadenfelt, 1417 N. Hadenfelt Road: I own a farm; if I sell it would it be allowed to remain a farm even though it is zoned R-1? Can Porter prevent me from using my land as a farm?

Jennifer Klug, 302 Lincoln Street: Is the unincorporated subdivision the above people are talking about (Grenville Acres) considered R-1 or trailer park zoning?

Ray Dolph, 1415 Hadenfelt Road: Can Porter take action on an illegal use home if the annexation takes place? Can I fly land an ultra-light aircraft on homemade runways on farms in the annexation area?

Tim Bauer, 1357 N. 100 East: Will annexation affect his raising of horses and animals and handling his own coyote problems as the county allows him to do?

Jonna Dolph, 338 E. Furness Road: Where in the Zoning Ordinance are the rules pertaining to horses, farm animals, using fire arms on their property, and hunting coyotes? Town Council President Kathy Kozuszek told us to come to this meeting and we will get all our questions answered. Why are we not getting answers to our questions?

Tremayne Hadenfelt, 1415 Harrison Road: We have heard a lot of negative things that are going to happen to us; what kind of benefits are we going to receive? How long has the Plan Commission been working on this project?

Ms. J. Bowers, 253 1400 N.: Commented it seems like the Plan Commission has no answers to the questions they were told they were going to be able to get.

Herb Read, 1453 N. Tremont Road: Commented that the newspaper stated that the Plan Commission members had met with the National Lakeshore to discuss the annexation. Did this happen? He is a leaseback resident of a wooded lot inside the National Lakeshore; does the Town of Porter expect him to cut his brush and prairie grass to the height a grass lawn would be?

Laura Burke, 1247 N. Tremont Road: Commented they are losing their rights to own and raise animals on their own property, to discharge firearms on their own property, we are going to be paying higher taxes, we are gaining nothing and you don't even

have all you information together to do it [the annexation].

Ms. Glasser, US Highway 20: Is not in the current annexation but wants to know if she will be in Phase 2 of the annexation.

Emerson Delaney, 1359 N. 100 East: Wanted to know the names of all the Plan Commission members. Who in Porter came up with this idea, when they did so and why? Is the decision going to be made on October 14? Will the public hearing venue be large enough to seat everyone involved? If I have a 6 acre parcel zoned R-1 can I subdivide it?

Terry Brookheimer, 253 1400 North: What kind of plan does Porter have for land use development of this area?

June Looby, 1467 N. 200 East: Will answers to questions be available to us in writing before the public hearing? It would be helpful to have some answers now and some later if we cannot get them all done in time.

Various Others: Many attempts to discuss annexation issues instead of zoning and land use issues. Many questions about will the Council answer these questions when asked. Which map we are using because it appears there are several different versions.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Bell; second by Mr. Guy. Meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Eugene Chemma
President

Lisa M. Liebert
Secretary