

**CITY OF OKOBOJI PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2020 – 5:30 PM  
OKOBOJI CITY HALL, 1322 HWY 71 N., OKOOBJI, IOWA 51355**

The Planning and Zoning Commission for the City of Okoboji met on the above date at 5:30 PM via Zoom. Commission members present were Perry Pearson, Barb Mendenhall, John McMahon, Jane Shuttleworth, and Hank Grant. Others present were City Administrator Michael Meyers, Michael Hawkins, and John Wills.

Chairperson Pearson called the meeting to order.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Pearson opened a public hearing to make a recommendation to the City's Zoning Administrator on a lakeshore landscaping permit application submitted by the Iowa DNR and the City of Okoboji, 1008/1010 US Hwy 71.

There were no letters in favor or in opposition of the proposed project.

City Administrator Meyers advised that all adjacent property owners within 200' were notified of the meeting and public hearing. Meyers gave an overview of the project and the participation of the Iowa DNR, the City of Okoboji, and Imagine Iowa Great Lakes pertaining to the revitalization of the lakeshore at this location. Meyers explained that the project calls for the use of herbicide, which is why the lakeshore landscaping permit process was initiated.

Michael Hawkins gave a detailed explanation of the shoreline project. Hawkins advised this is a prairie restoration project.

Commissioner Shuttleworth advised that she did a vegetation inventory at this location. Shuttleworth commented that this shoreline was dominated by non-native species and other weedy annuals. Shuttleworth believed that there was no real vegetation that needed to be protected at this location and that it was appropriate to start over and seed the area with native plants. Shuttleworth advised on alternative herbicides to be utilized. Shuttleworth felt that the tool in which was created to help perform analysis on shorelines and advised that this shoreline massively underperformed on the scale and felt that this project should move forward.

Hawkins advised that the herbicide to be used is recommended by the Wildlife Bureau and prairie restoration experts within the DNR specifically when in proximity of water.

The Commission discussed the schedule of the project. Hawkins advised that the prairie may take three to four years before it is fully developed. Hawkins advised of future maintenance to continue to allow the prairie to thrive.

Chairperson Pearson felt the scope of the project was well outlined and felt it was okay.

Commissioner Mendenhall expressed her concern over the use of herbicide. Hawkins agreed with her thoughts and discussed the long terms this project will yield. Hawkins expressed caution in going through with the project without the use of herbicide and felt the potential for failure was significantly higher without.

Motion made by Commissioner Mendenhall and a second by Commissioner Grant to recommend the lakeshore landscaping permit for approval to the City's Zoning Administrator. The following Commissioners voted AYE: Grant, Shuttleworth, Pearson, Mendenhall, McMahon. Motion was approved 5-0.

## **REPORTS**

City Administrator Meyers thanked Commissioner Shuttleworth for her work done on the lakeshore analysis and the Iowa DNR for their support on this project. Meyers advised that members of the Seeman Chateau may approach the Planning and Zoning Commission on the future of their structure in the event of a natural disaster. Meyers advised that he believes the Planning and Zoning Commission need to give guidance. Meyers acknowledged previous discussed zoning amendments that need to be brought back up as well as some lakeshore landscaping permit applications.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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Michael Meyers  
City Administrator