

**WALKER PLANNING COMMISSION
BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 24, 2013
6:00 p.m. 701 Elm Street Walker Fire Hall Meeting Room**

- 1. Call to Order** 6:00 p.m. by chair Wilkening.

Roll Call

Members Present: Jane Ekholm, Char Moore, Rich Hansen, Gary Wilkening, Greg Smith

Members Absent: Jeff Holly-Resigned effective June 24, 2013.

Staff: Pamela Smith and Terri Bjorklund

- 2. Additions or deletions to agenda:**

None.

- 3. Announcements by Chair:**

None.

- 4. Building/Zoning Report.**

Chair Wilkening reviews May zoning report.

- 5. M/S/A Hansen/Moore to approve of minutes for May 20, 2013.**

Ekholm requests that the spell correction be made from the May 20, 2013 minutes from section number 7, third paragraph to read *tetanus*. And also to omit the word *is* from section number 7, sixth paragraph.

Motion passed (5-0)

- 6. Continue work on Ordinance Chapter 91: Animals**

a) Review proposed Chicken Ordinance

Terri recaps the earlier request made by Tana Idstrom to have 2-3 chickens and explains the draft of the chicken ordinance included in this packet.

Ekholm makes note that this could affect the Geese at Bieloh's Pond. The draft currently reads as Fowl. Terri suggests omitting the wording from Fowl to Chicken with the board agreeing.

After some discussion it is clarified that this chicken ordinance would not include Roosters. The board agrees that the \$20.00 fee that would be required for a permit would be reasonable considering office time and processing.

Hanson questions the setback as well as the pen size.

Hanson- My concern is that 10 square feet would be too confining an area for 4 chickens.

The board decides that 144 square feet would be more appropriate wording in the ordinance and the 25 ft. setback is also agreed as an appropriate figure.

The wording on section D(1) should be changed to; The pen must *be a* minimum square footage of four feet per animal and must not exceed 144 square feet.

Hanson makes note of the wording chicken coop vs. chicken run. Requesting the wording only include chicken coop for a definition and using the term confinement instead of chicken run.

Terri states that she will clean it up and bring it back to the board next month for review.

b) Review proposed Animal Ordinance

Hanson suggests that the word *chickens* be removed from 91.01A, section 2.

Wilkening suggests that the definition of the rural residential district that this ordinance is primarily written for be placed at the beginning of the animal ordinance.

Hanson requests changing the wording on 91.03, section D to *humane* not human.

The board discusses the handling of dangerous animals and refers to State Statutes that currently regulate this.

Smith questions if this would prohibit roosters. It is noted that it would not prohibit roosters.

Terri stresses the need of defining a district where this is allowed. Wilkening suggests using the language of *Newly Annexed*. Stille Havn Hus is General Commercial which would require a conditional use permit. The board discusses that they would like to be able to write this ordinance so that it would include Stille Havn Hus. Currently the board does not believe that this should be written to allow General Commercial to have farm animals. They suggest possibly rezoning the area where Stille Havn Hus is located, however, it is brought up that Stille Have Hus currently zoned at General Commercial may be in part due to what that type of business that currently is.

Ekholm brings up the wording of accumulate and feels that this may be a problem. The board confirms that local police department would enforce this issue.

M/S/A Hanson/Wilkening The wording of 91.06 OWNERSHIP LIMITS. No person shall keep, maintain, or otherwise house more than a total of four cats or dogs over the age of four months. The wording of four months remain the same.

Ekholm requests that the wording of 91.06 be changed to read, dogs over the age of *6 months* instead of 4 months. She states that dogs may not be able to leave their mother until up to 6 months in some cases, stating that every dog has different times they would be ready to leave. The board worries that this could create a problem, noting that 6 months is half the year and it could essential allow for litters of puppies throughout the entire year in one household.

Motion passed (4-1)

c) Define Rural Residential District

Hanson suggest wording it Newly Annexed areas after a certain date.

Wilkening-Or another wording; parcels on the fringe of City Limits on 5 acres or excess of 10 acres.

Smith-This is still inside the City Limits?

Wilkening-Yes.

Hanson questions the inventory of the parcels and stresses that getting this book completed would be of benefit to the City of Walker.

Ekholm-What is the status of the tax increase at Legislation?

Wilkening explains that currently it is on hold and could be brought up at any session.

Terri states that after talking with John Persell he believes our tax request has merit.

7. Adjourn. The meeting of the planning commission was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.