



## CITY OF LA PINE PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

**5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting**

La Pine City Hall

16345 Sixth Street, La Pine, Oregon 97739

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Establish Quorum

Present: Commissioner McClung, Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Gillette, Commissioner Hatfield and Commissioner Cameron

Staff Present: Planning Manager Melissa Bethel and Administrative Assistant Holly Smith

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Commissioner Gillette

4. Added Agenda Items

None

5. Public Comments

Gloria Fleming: I was recently made aware of the purchase of the building on Highway 97 and the change in an ordinance that would allow a Marijuana dispensary to be placed there in full view of all driving through town. I was shocked and appalled that this could happen after all the hard work the former Planning Commission did to keep that from happening. I must have been out of town because I had absolutely no inkling this was in the works.

I do not know if any of you are aware but at one point La Pine was known as the "Meth" capitol of Oregon- We had a reputation for "easy access" and minimal law enforcement. When we decided to become a city, a priority and commitment was made to changer that image. It was something always kept in our thoughts as we developed our Comprehensive Plan and Ordinances.

When voters approved Marijuana sales it was only by a slim margin, both for Medical and Recreational. Almost as many of your constituents were against it, as were for it.

The Planning Commissioners were told we could not stop the dispensaries but did have the authority try to protect our children and our image by ordinances stating where and how many dispensaries

would be allowed. We did considerable research and comparisons with other cities and came up with ordinances that would work for us. The setbacks for businesses were very important because of the prior image problems and want to project a family friendly image for all that passed through. We checked and legal advised us we were within our rights to do this. We did not want a Porn shop right on the highway either.

On one side of the highway we have worked so hard to improve the “look” and I was really looking forward to bright shiny welcoming image as we come into town- Now as we look to the right we will see a business that throws out that negative image once again- Makes me sad and very disappointed.

Gloria ended by saying that while she knows what’s done is done and there’s nothing that can be done now about the dispensary going in right of HWY 97 at the south end of town, she implored the Planning Commission to be careful about approving their sign and the sign code.

Mike Harper spoke on behalf of the purchase of the building that will be HD Botanicals. He came here to start a grow and to help DH Botanicals grow his business. He purchased the property and also started a construction business. He’s hiring people in the community to work on that building trying to make it presentable and nice looking. He promised that they will not have gaudy or intrusive signs or be flamboyant. He understands that people are uncomfortable with it, but encouraged people to talk to him should they have questions or concerns.

Gloria clarified that she is not opposed to cannabis, but is concerned about the image of La Pine due to the location of the building.

6. Approval of February 21, 2018 Meeting Minutes

***Commissioner Gillette made a motion to approve the February 21, 2018 meeting minutes. Commissioner Hatfield seconded. No objections. Unanimously approved.***

7. Selection of TGM Advisory Committee Member

Commissioner Smith agreed to serve as the TGM Advisory Committee representative for the Planning Commission

8. Discussion regarding Sign Code

Melissa Bethel put together a power point presentation that included all of the Planning Commission’s photos submitted for review and comment. She went through each photo and the Planning Commission made comments on each. The photos consisted of signs around town, including regulator signage, creative signage, high and low signage, billboards, flags, banners, sandwich boards, etc. The Planning Commission will discuss signage size at next month’s meeting.

9. Other Matters: Only those matters properly added to this Agenda under line item No. 4

None

10. Public Comments

Gloria Fleming wanted to know if there was anything in lieu of a-frame signs for businesses off Highway 97 that don’t have signage.

11. Staff Comments

Melissa Bethel gave an update on Crescent Creek and stated that they'll be starting their next subdivision phase soon. There are some neat development ideas in the works that can't be discussed in detail at this point, but Melissa believes they'll be good projects. The City needs bicycles for the Sustainable City Year class next month.

12. Planning Commission Comments

Commissioner Gillette wanted to know if there were any lighting rules in the current sign code. Commissioner Hatfield was glad to go over the signs around town and thinks a new Sign Ordinance will be a good thing.

13. Adjourn Meeting

***Commissioner Hatfield made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Smith seconded. No objections. Meeting adjourned.***

Pursuant to ORS 192.640, this notice includes a list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered or discussed at the above-referenced meeting. This notice does not limit the ability of the City Council to consider or discuss additional subjects. This meeting is subject to cancellation without notice. The regular meeting is open to the public and interested citizens are invited to attend. The public will not be permitted to attend the executive session; provided, however, representatives of the news media and designated staff will be allowed to attend the executive session. Representatives of the news media are specifically directed not to report on any of the deliberations during the executive session, except to state the general subject of the executive session as previously announced. No decision will be made in the executive session. The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting to Holly Smith at (541-536-1432). For deaf, hearing impaired, or speech disabled dial 541-536-1432 for TTY.