

COCHISE COUNTY PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
FINAL MINUTES
August 13, 2014
REGULAR MEETING at 4:00 p.m.

Following a joint Work Session with the Board of Supervisors, the regular meeting of the Cochise County Planning and Zoning Commission was called to order at 4:48 p.m. by Chair Weissler at the Cochise County Complex, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona in the Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room. Chair Weissler admonished the public to turn off cell phones, use the speaker request forms provided, and to address the Commission from the podium using the microphone. She explained the time allotted to speakers when at the podium. She then explained the composition of the Commission, and indicated there was one Regulation Docket on the agenda. She explained the consequences of a potential tie vote and the process for approval and appeal.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Weissler noted the presence of a quorum and the roll, asking the Commissioners to introduce themselves and indicate the respective District they represent; seven Commissioners (Nathan Watkins, Jim Lynch, Carmen Miller, Tim Cervantes, Pat Edie, Jim Martzke, and Liza Weissler) indicated their presence. Staff members present included Beverly Wilson, Planning Director; Peter Gardner, Planner I; and Sarah Meggison, Intern Planner.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion: Approve the minutes of the July 09, 2014 meeting. **Action:** Approve

Moved by: Mr. Watkins **Seconded by:** Mr. Lynch

Vote: Motion passed (**Summary:** Yes = 4, No = 0, Abstain = 3)

Yes: Mr. Lynch, Mr. Watkins, Ms. Miller, and Ms. Weissler **No:** 0 **Abstain:** Mr. Cervantes, Mr. Martzke, and Ms. Edie

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Mr. Jack Cook of Bisbee spoke of various matters.

NEW BUSINESS

Item 1

PUBLIC HEARING Docket R-14-04 (Cochise County Light Pollution Code and Zoning Regulations). This Docket was to discuss and move forward the proposed revisions to the 2014 version of the Cochise County Zoning Regulations, Article 19 – Signs; and the 2005 version of the Light Pollution Code. The overall intent of the proposed revisions is to ensure current and future light and sign technologies are covered under the Light Pollution Code and Zoning Regulations. Chair Weissler called for the Planning Director's report. Peter Gardner presented the Docket, explaining the background of the request utilizing photos, maps, and other visual aids. He explained the direction Staff had received at the Work Session at the previous meeting.

Ms. Weissler then opened the Public Hearing.

Mr. James Carpentier of Phoenix introduced himself as a representative of the Arizona Sign Association and the International Sign Association. He spoke in general support of the code, but recommended removing signs from the lumen calculations and eliminating the height and color restrictions for digital signs. He also warned about creating a definition of digital sign that may not include any future technology.

Mr. Bob Gent of Sierra Vista introduced himself as a local astronomer and presented the Commission with a demonstration of correlated color temperature and urged the Commission to adopt color restrictions on exterior lighting along with the rest of the proposed Code.

Ms. Amy Carter of Sierra Vista thanked Staff for their efforts and noted she would prefer there were no digital signs. She encouraged the Commission to adopt the regulations for the protection of dark skies and wildlife. She also supported the content and color restrictions.

There being no further speakers, Ms. Weissler closed the Public Hearing and asked for Commission Discussion. Mr. Martzke asked about the height restriction. Mr. Gardner provided the proposed and current permitted heights. Mr. Watkins asked about existing signs and if those could be replaced with digital signs. Mr. Gardner explained that a digital sign would be considered a new sign and the sign would need to either comply with the regulations or be heard as a Special Use. Ms. Edie asked for clarification regarding existing gas station signs. Mr. Gardner explained the procedures regarding replacement of such signs. Mr. Lynch stated that he felt something had to be put into place to preclude new digital signs under the current regulations with the possibility of making changes in the future. He supported the proposed CCT limits. Ms. Miller asked about the benefit of requiring a locked preset setting on a sign. The Commission generally felt that such a requirement would be difficult or impossible to enforce. Mr. Lynch reiterated statements from previous meetings recommending adopting a national standard written by specialists at some point in the future and made a motion to forward to the Board of Supervisors with a recommendation of Approval. Mr. Martzke seconded the motion and Ms. Weissler asked for discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Motioned to forward to the Board of Supervisors with a recommendation of Approval, as recommended by Staff. **Action:** Forward with recommendation of Approval.

Moved by: Mr. Lynch **Seconded by:** Mr. Martzke

Vote: Motion passed (**Summary:** Yes = 7, No = 0, Abstain = 0)

Yes: Mr. Lynch, Mr. Watkins, Ms. Miller, Ms. Weissler, Ms. Edie, Mr. Martzke and Mr. Cervantes

No: 0

Abstain: 0

PLANNING DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Planning Director Beverly Wilson encouraged the Commissioners to contact Staff with questions and comments regarding the proposed update to the Comprehensive Plan and informed the Commission that there were five Special Use dockets on the next agenda. She also informed the Commission that the master development plan and rezoning heard at the last meeting was approved by the Board the previous day. She closed by encouraging the Commissioners to sign up for an online course from the University of Arizona for Citizen Planners.

CALL TO COMMISSIONERS ON RECENT MATTERS:

Mr. Lynch encouraged the Commissioners to attend the course suggested by Staff.

ADJOURNMENT – Chair Weissler called for a motion to adjourn: Mr. Martzke moved, Mr. Watkins seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 5:49 pm.