

**Harris Planning Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 27, 2023**

- I. **Call to Order** - Chairman Siedow called the Planning Commission to order at 7:00 pm.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance** - All present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. **Roll Call** - City Clerk Shannon Geier conducted roll call. Present were Chairman Al Siedow, Commissioner Sheri Denny, Commissioner Haley Peabody, Commissioner Neil Elmquist, and Commissioner Jeff Borash. City Clerk Geier announced a quorum was present.
- IV. **Consent Agenda- February 27, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes** - Denny made a motion to approve the February 27, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes. Elmquist seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
- V. **Regular Agenda**
 - A. **Information about Cannabis/Cannabinoids/THC** – City Clerk Geier explained the status of MN Senate File 73 and asked the Commissioners if they want to continue working on the Harris local ordinance or wait for MN to update the state law. The Commissioners directed Geier to update the local ordinance with details already discussed, including a section on confiscation, and bring to the April 24 meeting for review.
 - B. **Mineral Extraction Ordinance** – Denny explained her experience with a sand mining operation in near proximity to her property. The house is about 50’ off the road which means it is only 100’ from the edge of the sand pit. She had tried to stop the mining operation but the City gave a permit, anyway. Sand blows in her face during the summer months and across the yard leaving drifts. The company does not follow the permit requirements that must be completed within one year or the permit would be revoked. She has complained but nothing happened. Her passion for this subject is to improve the ordinance with clear, descriptive requirements so her terrible experience does not happen to anyone else. For example: “Plant trees” could specifically state how many, what size, what kind, and where. Denny asked the Commissioners to begin the discussion by reviewing the proposed definition of berm and definition of screening to determine if they should be added to the ordinance. The Commissioners’ consensus was that both definitions were acceptable, and they had no other suggestions.

The discussion turned to Setbacks. A proposed change under consideration is that mineral extraction shall occur no closer than 50 feet from any property line, 100 feet from any public road easement, and 300 feet from any residential structure or residential zoning boundary. After a lengthy discussion the Commissioners decided to invite a representative from the mineral extraction industry to a Planning Commission meeting to get their perspective on setbacks, screening/berm, berm height, trees/foliage, and annual certification. Siedow will contact a manager at Knife River. Other questions that could be asked are how else we can stop the sand from blowing, what about watering the sand, and from what point do we measure the berm height.

Another subject of concern for the Commissioners is enforcement. If changes are made to the ordinance or not, how will what we have be enforced and by whom.

C. **ECRDC Housing Report** – Geier advised the Commissioners that this report is due on March 30, and she is submitting the same information that was on last year’s report.

VI. **Commissioner Reports** – Geier advised the Commissioner that she has applied to the Stauber Community Projects Fund for \$1.6 million to bring City Sewer and Water to I-35.

VII. **Adjourn** – Denny made a motion to adjourn. Borash seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:23.

City Clerk – Shannon Geier

Allen Siedow - Chair

Date Approved

APPROVED