

CITY OF LEWISTON
PLANNING BOARD MEETING
MINUTES for June 11, 2012

- I. **ROLL CALL:** The meeting was held in the City Council Chambers on the first floor of City Hall and was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Chairperson, Lucy Bisson, chaired the meeting.

Members in Attendance: Lucy Bisson, Bruce Damon, Kevin Morissette, Eric Potvin, Trinh Burpee, Walter Hill and Paul Robinson

Associate Member Present: Michael Marcotte and Sandra Marquis

Staff Present: David Hediger, City Planner and Cathy Lekberg, Administrative Assistant, Economic & Community Development

- II. **ADJUSTMENT TO THE AGENDA:** None

- II. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Staff distributed copies of the space and bulk matrix date June 11, 2012

- IV. **PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None

- V. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

- a) Downtown Neighborhood Winter Parking Proposal

David read staff comments to the Board.

Brian Banton, a member of the Downtown Neighborhood Action Committee explained that he was before the Planning Board in March of this year and at that time was looking for the Board's thoughts regarding the winter parking proposal. He said the DNAC Committee would like to get two motions from the Board. First, to support a change to the existing winter parking ban that the City has in place. Second, to support the creation of a central impound lot. Brian stated that the downtown area is very depressed and there are approximately 81 vacant and abandoned buildings in that area. He told the Board that the City needs to attract people that want to make an investment to the downtown area and that the existing parking policy discourages them from wanting to live there. He explained that the parking policy is a real hardship on people living in the downtown and that they want to remove the obstacles for these investing people.

Bruce asked if there would be a charge for parking overnight in the parking garages and Lucy stated it is free overnight. There would only be a charge if they stayed beyond that time that the parking garage opened up in the morning.

Walter asked if the impound lot would be staffed and Brian stated it would be staffed by City staff or possibly a private company. Walter asked about an

automated system and Brian said it would be too costly to use an automated system.

Kevin commented that DNAC had discussed using multiple lots around the City and Brian stated they have decided to use only one central impound lot.

Bruce asked if the ban was City wide or just in the downtown and David stated the ban was city wide. Brian stated their proposal would be city wide.

Walter agreed that something needed to be done about winter parking but stated that if a vehicle is towed to the impound lot, one day is not long enough for people to pick up their vehicles. He asked if this could be lengthened and Brian stated that the City did not want to be held responsible for these cars and that would be the responsibility of the tow companies. Lucy opened this item to the public and there were no comments.

Eric stated he was in favor of the new policy and Kevin agreed. Walter also stated he was in favor.

Bruce stated that if people were allowed to park on Lisbon Street in a snowstorm, it would be a mess and there is only limited police enforcement. He also stated that there were too many questions unanswered in this proposal

Walter also was concerned about the liabilities and did not want to support the proposal until there were more details.

The following motion was made:

MOTION: by **Kevin Morissette** to send a favorable recommendation for the City Council to change the winter parking proposal. Second by **Eric Potvin**.

VOTED: 7-2 (Passed)

Walter Hill & Bruce Damon Opposed

b) Zoning Matrix

David explained that he made proposed changes to the matrix that the Board had discussed in earlier meetings.

The Board further discussed the changes and also made additional comments about the bulk and space matrix. They decided to further discuss the matrix at the July 9, 2012 meeting and also decided that this meeting would be solely for the discussion of the matrix so that they could finalize the matrix and schedule a public hearing. Lucy asked the Board if they had any specific items that they would like to discuss to email them to David.

c) Any other business Planning Board Members may have relating to the duties of the Lewiston Planning Board.

- VI. **ADJOURNMENT:** The following motion was made to adjourn.
MOTION: by **Walter Hill** that this meeting adjourns at 7:30 p.m. Second by **Trinh Burpee**.
VOTED: **7-0 (Passed)**.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is for Monday, June 23, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Paul Robinson

Paul Robinson, Secretary

CLL