

**MINUTES  
CITY OF DARIEN  
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION MEETING  
June 18, 2014**

**PRESENT:** Beverly Meyer – Chairperson, Ron Kiefer, John Lind, Ray Mielkus, Pauline Oberland, Ken Ritzert, Michael Griffith – Senior Planner, Elizabeth Lahey – Secretary.

**ABSENT:** Louis Mallers, Susan Vonder Heide

Chairperson Meyer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall – City Council Chambers, Darien, Illinois and declared a quorum present and swore in the audience members wishing to present public testimony.

**A. PZC 2014-04: Text Amendment, Zoning Ordinance: Recreational Vehicles, Trailers and Snow Plows: Consideration of a proposed text amendment to the Zoning Ordinance regarding the regulation of the outdoor storage and parking of recreational vehicles, trailers, tow dollies and snow plow blades.**

Mr. Michael Griffith, Senior Planner reported that in 2008 the Zoning Ordinance was amended requiring recreational vehicles to be stored within interior side yards and rear yards on a hard surface. He reported that the language is vague as it applies to utility trailers and similar items and that staff proposes to include utility trailers and snow plows, when not attached to a vehicle as being regulated the same as recreational vehicles.

Mr. Griffith stated that the amendment is intended to clean up the language clarifying that utility trailers, tow dollies and snow plows are regulated.

Commissioner Oberland asked what a tow dolly was.

Mr. Steven Brichta, 7231 Leonard Drive, Darien stated that he owned a tow dolly and that it is two wheels with a frame and small ramp that is hitched to a vehicle where the front tires of a vehicle are towed. He stated that tow dollies are not trailers and do not need a license plate as long as a licensed vehicle is on it.

Mr. Brichta stated that tow dollies and snow plows are similar. He asked the PZC to consider two items outside the property and that most people with motor homes typically tow a vehicle or boat behind the motor home.

Commissioner Oberland questioned the purpose of the Ordinance on the side and rear.

Mr. Griffith reported that it was for aesthetics.

Commissioner Lind questioned the hardship and why he could not store the tow dolly in the garage.

Mr. Brichta stated that backing the tow dolly into the garage is difficult and he prefers it to be outside.

Commissioner Kiefer questioned why it is ok to have a large motor home but having two small trailers is a problem.

Both Commissioner Lind and Oberland stated that the purpose is to maintain aesthetics and not clutter the landscaping.

Commissioner Lind stated that the cost of storing offsite has to be considered when one purchases such "toys".

There was no one in the audience wishing to present public comment. Chairperson Meyer closed the public hearing at 7:40 p.m.

**Commissioner Ritzert made a motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Mielkus that based upon the submitted petition and the information presented, the request associated with PZC 2014-03 is in conformance with the standards of the Darien City Code and move hat the Planning and Zoning Commission recommend approval of the petition.**

**Upon roll call vote, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 6-0. Commissioner Mallers and Commissioner Vonder Heide were not present.**

### **MINUTES**

**Commissioner Kiefer made a motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Mielkus to waive the reading of the May 7, 2014 Meeting Minutes.**

**Upon voice vote, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 6-0. Commissioner Mallers and Commissioner Vonder Heide were not present.**

**Commissioner Lind made a motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Kiefer to approve the May 7, 2014 Meeting Minutes.**

**Upon roll call vote, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 6-0. Commissioner Mallers and Commissioner Vonder Heide were not present.**

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

### **OLD BUSINESS/PLANNER'S REPORT**

None.

**NEXT MEETING**

Mr. Griffith announced that the next meeting is a Special Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 26, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**With no further business before the Commission, Commissioner Kiefer made a motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Ritzert. Upon voice vote, THE MOTION CARRIED unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.**

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

**APPROVED:**

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**Michael Griffith**  
**Senior Planner**

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**Beverly Meyer**  
**Chairman**