

WIEDC Minutes for 11/01/2012

Present: Nikolai, Gunnlaugsson, Ulm, Stayton and Maiers

Absent: Engstrom and Sorensen

1. Call to Order

At 7 PM

2. Minutes from September 26, 2012

Motion to accept Gunnlaugsson, second Ulm, unanimous.

3. Project updates

a. Marketing brochure

Discussion of progress. Agreed to postpone further decisions until after the first of the year.

b. High speed fiber link

Discussion. Gunnlaugsson will arrange a meeting with Tim Ulman, Door County IS Department Head.

c. Zoning letter

Nikolai proposed a draft of the Letter outlining the problems of the community with the Door County Planning Department. The letter to be submitted to the Town Board for their considerations requests a community meeting on Washington Island with the new County Administrator, the Planning Department Administrator and the Chairmen of the RPC Committee. (See attached). Motion Stayton, second Maiers, unanimous.

d. Business retention program

Nikolai proposed a meeting with Sam Perlman of the DC Economic Development Corporation on the topic of the Formal Business Retention. Committee members were asked to submit the times they could meet during the day to Nikolai for the week after Thanksgiving.

4. Harbor master plan update

Gunnlaugsson outlined the formation and progress of the Harbor Master Plan Steering committee.

5. Committee comments

The departure of the Pastor Phil Green and Ben Bauman from the Bethel Church was noted.

The establishment of a new lavender business Fragrant Isle LLC was acknowledged.

6. Public comments

7. Schedule next meeting

See 3.d

8. Adjourn

Motion Stayton, second Ulm, unanimous.

Minutes approved January 22, 2013

DRAFT

To: Maureen Murphy – County Administrator
Dan Austad – County Board Chairman
Ken Fisher – Resource Planning Committee
Mariah Goode - Planning & Zoning Department

From: Town of Washington – Town Board

Re: Concerns and suggestions to promote economic activity on Washington Island

The Town of Washington would like to communicate its concerns, and offer some suggestions, on what it feels to be a critical process in encouraging and promoting economic activity and development on Washington Island – and that is the zoning and permitting process administered by the Door County Planning & Zoning Department. The recent event that has triggered this concern is the private business incubator project proposed by Scott Sonic – which according to Mr. Sonic, has been withdrawn mainly due to the inability to come to an agreeable definition on zoning and permitting for such a facility.

While the intent of this letter is not to re-hash the failed incubator project, we feel it is relevant to site it as an example and use it to generate ideas for improving the process going forward. Our main objective is to encourage economic development and activity on Washington Island. Some concerns and suggestions we have are:

1. We do not want potential projects to “die” with Door County Planning & Zoning Department – how can we work together to make sure every option is considered to move a project forward.
2. What can be done to change current practice and perception?
 - a. Make the permitting process less daunting and more collaborative.
 - b. Educate builders, architects, realtors and others on the process and requirements – set property owner expectations on the process prior to starting the project.
 - c. Improve customer relations on the part of Door County Planning & Zoning Department – use more common sense and less strict interpretation. Be less “officious” and bureaucratic, and more customer focused.
3. Define arbitration / mediation process. If there is a dispute – what is the legal recourse?
4. Make it less about fees and more about results. Door County Planning & Zoning Department should be more willing to help determine if project is feasible and define what will be required before collecting fees – if the project moves forward – fees will be collected.
5. Consistent enforcement of the rules and the process.

We would like to propose a public meeting with the four of you to explore these concerns and suggestions further, get clarification on what current practices are, and determine what changes would be required to implement some of our suggestions. Please let us know your thoughts on this and we can arrange next steps.

Sincerely,