

Coordinated Development In

**MOWER COUNTY**

AUSTIN, MINNESOTA

55912



507-437-9527

AUSTIN-MOWER COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

August 25, 1987

Minutes of the Mower County Planning Commission Meeting

Members Present: Joe Monsen, Oliver Hillier, Jen Ulwelling Gary Braaten, Bob Werner

Members Absent: John Hill, Bob Finbraaten, Roberta Finneseth

Others Present: Julie Lewon

Vice-Chairman Monsen called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 25, 1987 in Conference Room 1 of the Mower County Courthouse in Austin, Minnesota. The minutes of the July 28, 1987 meeting were approved as mailed on a motion by Mrs. Ulwelling, seconded by Mr. Werner and passed unanimously.

Election of Officers: Vice-Chairman Monsen opened nominations for Chairman. Mrs. Ulwelling nominated Mr. Monsen and Mr. Hillier seconded the nomination. Mr. Hillier then made a motion that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Mr. Monsen. The motion was seconded by Mr. Werner and passed unanimously. Chairman Monsen then opened nominations for Vice-chairman. Mr. Braaten nominated Mrs. Ulwelling for Vice-Chairman. The nomination was seconded by Chairman Monsen. Chairman Monsen then made a motion that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Mrs. Ulwelling. The motion was seconded by Mr. Werner and passed unanimously.

GUP 369 - Commercial Kennel in the Rural Zone - Diane and Charles Fessler: Ms. Lewon read the staff report. Mrs. & Mr. Fessler are requesting a conditional use permit to allow a commercial kennel at the following location: East 164.5 feet of Sub Outlot 5 and Sub Outlot 12, Outlots 10 and 11 in the W 1/2 SE 1/4, Section 33, Red Rock Township, .7 acres. Ms. Lewon informed the Commission that she had received a petition in opposition to the request. The petition was signed by 11 property owners in the immediate area of the request.

Mrs. Fessler was present and related to the Commission why she was requesting the conditional use permit. Mr. Franklin, Planning Director, had written a letter to Mrs. Fessler regarding a report that she was operating a commercial kennel. Mrs. Fessler told Mr. Franklin that she wasn't breeding, boarding or grooming other people's dogs. Only 1 of the dogs she owned could have puppies. She also had 2 aged females and 1 male to breed to the house dog. Based on this, Mr. Franklin had told her she didn't need a conditional use permit, but since others in the area were

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concerned she went ahead and applied. Mrs. Fessler presented pictures of her kennel, the fencing, where shrubbery will be placed, her house and houses in the area. The shrubbery had not been planted yet because a new sewer system is going in for Nicolville and she wanted to wait until after all the digging had been done. Since she had applied for the conditional use permit, Mrs. Fessler now planned to add 2 more female dogs for breeding. To control barking she muzzles the dogs every evening. An on-site septic system is used for the kennel. All dogs, except the house dog, are in the kennel at all times.

Don Staley, area resident, spoke in opposition to the request. He was concerned about the many dogs that run loose in the area, which were not just the ones owned by the Fesslers. Merrill Fitzgerald, area resident, said that some children in the area had opened the kennels and let the dogs loose before. He was concerned about it happening again. Ken Iverson, area resident, said he does hear barking at night but didn't know if it was the Fessler dogs or others.

After further discussion a motion was made by Mr. Braaten to table the request to the September 29, 1987 meeting and that the Planning Commission members visit the site before that time. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hillier and passed unanimously. The Planning Commission scheduled the visit for 6:30 p.m. on the 29th.

Review of Proposal for New Wastewater Treatment System in Brownsdale: Ms. Lewon read a letter from Michael Hanson, Jones, Haugh & Smith Inc. The City of Brownsdale is looking at a stabilization pond treatment facility. Mr. Hanson was asking for comments from the Planning Department. Ms. Lewon related that Mr. Franklin had reviewed the preliminary information provided and found them to be in accordance with the County Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Braaten made a motion that the plans for the new facility had been reviewed and are in agreement with the County Comprehensive Plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Werner and passed on a 4-1 vote with Mr. Hillier voting nay. Mr. Hillier felt more information was needed.

Other Business: Mrs. Ulwelling made a motion asking that the Planning Commission be given approval to go out with the staff prior to meetings to view the sites. This group should include the Chairman and 1 other member of the Commission. The motion was seconded Mr. Hillier and passed unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Werner, seconded by Mr. Braaten and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

*Julie Lewon*  
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