

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Development & Planning (D&P)

CHAIRPERSON: Diane Gallagher, Chairman

DATE/TIME: August 28, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

☒ Diane Gallagher	☒ John Schultz	☐ Bill Bingham
☐ Staci Duerr	☐ Bob Heuerman	☒ John Lang
☐ Vacant	☒ Darcy Wild	

A quorum was established.

Other Board members: Don Hill

Others: Eric Tison, Emily Legel, Emily Nicolin, Peg Dittmar and Scott Toot

1. Approval of Minutes - None

2. Citizens' Comments – Emily Nicolin introduced herself, she is present via zoom.

3. Unfinished Business

- a) FY2021/FY2022 Strategic Goals and Plans – Simplify and replace present zoning ordinances to encourage business.

4. New Business

- a) Discussion and possible action on Guest Accommodations code amendments Title 4 Business & License Regulations Chapter 6 Guest Accommodations. – Eric Tison, Planning & Development Administrator, explained the current Chapter 6 Guest Accommodation Code. He suggested a few options for the Committee to consider. One option is amending the definition of “landline” to allow for more flexibility with the telephone service. An additional option to be considered would be to strike the definition of landline phone from the Code and remove the requirement for an Emergency Telephone. John Schultz suggested striking the landline reference completely. John Lang stated he would feel more comfortable if there were guidelines requiring a list of emergency numbers and the owner of the property to be responsible to make sure the visitor’s mobile phone works properly. Diane Gallagher read an email from Rose Noble, CEO and President of Galena Country Tourism, discussing her concerns and support of updating the code due to changing technology. Don Hill, agrees with John Lang that there needs to be some sort of telephone system requirement. Darcy Wild, commented that she travels a lot and has used several of the online home rental sites. She advised it states within each listing what is available for phone service or what you would be required to bring along for phone service. Emily Nicolin, manager of multiple properties within Jo Daviess County, stated she did unfortunately have a health emergency in one of their properties, the renters did not use the landline phone within the residence. They used their personal cell phone that they were familiar with. Nicolin also stated that one of her properties has US cellular service and she has no issues with phone reception there. Another one of her properties has AT&T phone service and she often has issues with reception. She stated she believes there does need to be a code regarding phone service but she suggests that it be updated to include cellular phone service. **John Lang made a motion to strike out landlines as a requirement for Guess Accommodations and develop other options. Seconded by John Schultz. Motion passed following a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.**
- b) Discussion and possible action on Title 7 Building Regulations Chapter 1 Permit Regulations. – Eric Tison, Planning & Development Administrator, explained the currently building codes in Title 7 Chapter 1. The electrical codes most recent updates are from 2020 and the accessibility codes are from 2018. **John Schultz made a motion to update the electrical and Illinois accessibility codes to the current Board of Appeals recommendations. Seconded by John Lang. Motion passed following a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.**

- c) Discussion on suggestions for simplification of zoning processes. This item was discussed in the above actions and will be an ongoing task.

5. Staff Reports

a) Building & Zoning

- 1. Monthly Report– Eric Tison, Planning & Development Administrator, reported on the new home construction in our County. His monthly report was included in the informational packet.

b) Economic Development

- 1. NW Illinois Economic Development Monthly Report – Emily Legel, NW Illinois Economic Development Executive Director, reviewed her report that was included in the informational packet. The annual meeting was discussed.

- c) **Ad Hoc Economic Development Committee** – John Schultz advised the Ad Hoc Economic Development Committee meeting is next Monday.

- d) **Blackhawk Hills Regional Council** – Diane Gallagher advised that the Blackhawk Hills Regional Council has been busy applying for grants and learning about other opportunities that are available to them.

- 6. Citizens' Comments** – Scott Toot explained the need for this meeting on a Saturday morning. He thanked the committee members for attending.

- 7. Board Member Concerns** – None.

The next regular Development & Planning Committee meeting will be Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m. following a motion made by John Schultz and seconded by John Lang. Motion passed following a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.