



WASHINGTON PLANNING BOARD
Regular Scheduled Meeting
Tuesday, November 28, 2017
5:30 PM

- I. Opening of the meeting
- II. Invocation
- III. Roll call
- IV. New Business

None
- V. Old Business / Items for Discussion

1. Micro-Distillery Text Amendment
- VI. Approval of minutes – October 24, 2017
- VIII. Adjourn

It is very important that we have a Quorum at this meeting. Please try to attend this short meeting regarding an additional text amendment for Micro-Distilleries.

WASHINGTON PLANNING BOARD
Regular Scheduled Meeting
Tuesday, October 24, 2017
5:30 PM

Members Present

Doris Moate
John Tate
Marie Barber

Members Absent

Jane Alligood
D. Howell Miller
Gillian Jones

Others Present

John Rodman, Planning Director
Jessica Green, Administrative Support

I. Opening of the meeting

The Chairman called the meeting to order. He explained to the audience that they did not have enough members for a full quorum, but they would discuss two of the items and give members of the audience a chance to speak on them. He stated that the Planning Board would reconvene on Thursday October 26, 2017 with a full board to make a decision on the request.

II. Invocation

A silent roll call was taken by staff.

III. Roll Call

A silent roll call was taken by staff.

Old Business/Items for Discussion

Text Amendments for:

1. Massage Parlors
The item was continued and not discussed.

2. Micro-Distilleries

John Rodman came forward and stated that the City received a request from Mr. Nick Sanders to consider adding Micro-Distilleries/Distilleries as part of their zoning ordinance. Mr. Rodman stated that currently the City does not have either one of the uses listed in the ordinance, which makes them not permitted. He stated that a couple of years ago they added Micro-Breweries to

the ordinance as a use in the zoning district. Mr. Rodman stated that they would like to add Micro-Distilleries as a special use in the B1H (Business Historic District) and also in the B2 (General Business District). Mr. Rodman stated that Micro-Distilleries are a fairly new item in NC and they have kept a pretty strict hand on alcohol sales in the state. He stated that in recent years NC has become a little more lenient. He explained that currently there are more than 40 distilleries operating and selling liquor in the state. Mr. Rodman stated that many of them offer tours and some offer subsequent tastings with the tour. He explained that in the past you could only buy one bottle per year, but now the Senate Bill 155 (the bunch bill) that was passed in March the limit was increased to five bottles per year per person. He stated that they are also allowed with a permit approved by the Commission to conduct tastings at special events.

Nick Sanders came forward and gave a presentation explaining why it is important for the City of Washington to allow Distilleries. He stated that purchased a building in the Downtown area and is interested in opening a Distillery as part of a mixed use including a restaurant and Boutique Hotel. He explained the new popularity of Distilleries and where some of the local ones are located. Mr. Sanders gave some additional information on the growing business and how it would be a positive addition to the economy of Washington and the Downtown area. He stated that he would be producing Gin at his particular site. He asked the Planning Board to approve the text amendment, so that he can move along with his project.

The Chairman asked for a show of hands for members of the audience who are in favor of the approval. It was unanimous in the audience for those in favor. No one came forward to speak against.

John Rodman came forward and went through the actual text in the proposed text amendment. The Board discussed the amendment and Mr. Rodman answered questions. They specifically discussed the distance requirement from Churches.

3. Farm Animals within City Limits.

Mr. Rodman explained that they had looked at this request a couple of months ago. He presented the Board with a copy of the text amendment/ordinance that he drafted based on what they had previously discussed.

Emma Way came forward and made a presentation stating the benefits of backyard chickens and facts supporting the presence of chickens in the City limits. Ms. Way asked the Board to approve the text amendment allowing chickens.

The Board, staff, and members of the audience discussed some of the requirements. It was decided to change the maximum number allowed to ten chickens instead of five. Being that the Board did not have a quorum, they continued the item until Thursday October 26, 2017.

WASHINGTON PLANNING BOARD
Continued Meeting
Thursday, October 26, 2017 5:30pm

I. Opening of the meeting.

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

II. Invocation

Jane Alligood led in prayer.

III. Roll Call

Gillian Jones was absent. All other members present.

IV. Old Business

1. Micro-Distilleries

Jane Alligood made a motion to recommended approval of the Micro-Distilleries Text Amendment. Her motion was seconded by Marie Barber and all voted in favor.

2. Farm Animals

D. Howell Miller made a motion to recommended approval of the Farm Animal Text Amendment. Jane Alligood seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dot Moate and seconded by Marie Barber.

Adjourn

There being no other business Jane Alligood made a motion to adjourn. Dot Moate seconded the motion and all voted in favor.