

Planning & Zoning News

Volume 4 Issue 1 January 2012 Department of Planning & Zoning Scott Anderson, Director

Looking Forward, Planning Ahead

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Editor: Pat Herman

Editorial: 2011... and so it went.



"Here's to the bright New Year, and a fond farewell to the old; here's to the things that are yet to come, and to the memories that we hold." -- Anonymous

The end of a year causes us to reflect on what we liked, lived through, and hopefully learned in the past 12 months. In the Planning Department 2011 was a record setting year for drainage permits as detailed in Dustin Powers' article on page 3. The recently wet years encouraged the installation of tile by agricultural producers. So much so that by the end of fall there was a shortage of available tile. While no records were set in building permits, the office saw solid numbers. A total of 41 permits were issued for new houses and there were many, many remodels. Due to the federal tax incentive there was an increase in the number of building permits issued for agricultural buildings.

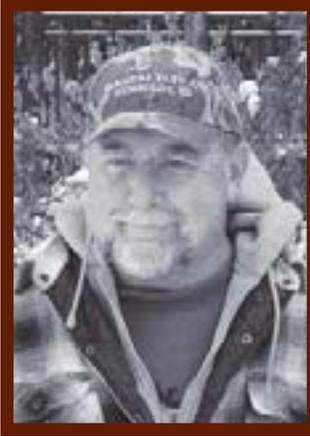
Code Enforcement is always an active division of this office, and this year was no different. After exhausting all avenues and negotiations, the County Commission declared three properties public nuisances. Ryan Streff spent 6 days on these sites working with the contractors to remove the nuisance materials. The ability of the staff to work with county residents to bring their properties in to compliance is very evident considering that the number of enforcement cases - zoning, nuisance, and drainage - in which action was taken numbered 197 for 2011.

Two complaints were forwarded to the State Attorney's office for legal action and 158 new complaints were opened this year. The majority of these complaints addressed the following; unlicensed, inoperable and dismantled vehicles; construction without building permits; noxious weeds; and other miscellaneous scrap, junk and building materials on property. Staff also addressed many conditional use permits in regards to their approved conditions and commercial business without the proper zoning and/or required permits.

RUBES® By Leigh Rubin.



STAFF NEWS



We were saddened by the death of our friend and colleague **Tom Warne** on December 6, 2011. A member of this department for 33 years, Tom inspired us all with his zest for life, love of pranks, and wonderful sense of humor. He is missed.

PLANNING COMMISSION

When Don South joined the Planning Commission Titanic was the top movie at the box office and Dolly the sheep had just been cloned. Starting in January 1997, Don served for 15 years, many of those as chair of the Commission. Don attended his last Planning Commission meeting on November 28th.



During his tenure Don oversaw major revisions to the zoning ordinances including new regulations for CAFO's, home occupations, wind energy, agricultural tourism, and temporary uses. He also helped to draft the right-to-farm notice covenant.

On behalf of the Planning Staff, I wish to extend our sincere thanks to Don for his years of dedication and service. We enjoyed working with you and appreciated your professionalism and sagaciousness. And your sense of humor.....most of the time.

THANK YOU DON!

Editorial Continued

Also successful for another year were the neighborhood clean-up projects. Held in the southwest and west parts of the county, every member of the Planning Department worked on Saturdays to assist the community in getting rid of unwanted items. Ryan Streff accepted an achievement award from the SD Association of County Commissions for these "Slash Your Trash" events.

The GIS division had a busy year with new projects and the daily maintenance of the system. Heidi Jerke and Darin VanDeBerg discuss 2011 in the article starting on page 5. The planning staff was engaged in the issuance of 445 building permits and 104 septic permits. Staff reports were written for 56 conditional use permits, 4 zoning text amendments, 6 property rezonings, 2 preliminary plans, 2 street vacations and 5 variances. The Planning Staff also reviewed and approved 76 property plats. In addition, the Red Rock Corridor Plan was developed and adopted.

Not all of the memorable moments of the Planning Department were pleasant. We said goodbye to longtime business associates as they retired and to a valued Planning Commission member. We also lost a good friend and staff member.

Each member of the staff provided one word describing their 2011 in the planning department. Overall, it was a pretty good year. Here's to an even better year in 2012.

OUTSTANDING

ACCOMPLISHED

SUPERSTAR

ENLIGHTENING

PROFESSIONALISM

RIDICULOUS

TALENTED

LAUGHTER

2012 MINNEHAHA COUNTY PLANNING CALENDAR

★ Holiday

| January 12/29 | | | | | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
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| November | | | | | | |
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| December | | | | | | |
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|-----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---|
| PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING | APPLICATION DEADLINE | COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING | JOINT COUNTY COMMISSION CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---|

Copies of this calendar, the joint planning commission calendar, county commission , and joint county commission city council schedules can be found on the website at: www.minnehahacounty.org/dept/pl/planning_commission/agenda/agenda.aspx.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSIONERS & STAFF

COMMISSIONERS

Susie O'Hara,
Humboldt/Colton Area
2009-2013

Becky Randall
Dell Rapids Area
2008-2012

Wayne Steinhauer
Wall Lake Area
2006-2010

Mike Cypher
Wall Lake Area
2008-2012

Mark Rogan
Garretson Area
2010-2014

County Commission
Representative
2012

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