



Marion County

OREGON

PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

PLANNING COMMISSION

George Grabenhorst – Chair
Carla Mikkelsen – Vice Chair
Scott Anderson
Stanley Birch
Glenn Holum
Mike Long
Rick Massey
Gary Monders
Dennis Person

DATE: February 3, 2015
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Senator Hearing Room
555 Court St. NE, Salem

Present: Stanley Birch, George Grabenhorst, Dennis Person, Scott Anderson, Gary Monders, Mike Long, Rick Massey and Carla Mikkelsen
Absent: Glenn Holum

Chair Grabenhorst called the meeting to order.

1. Discussion and final recommendations to the Board of Commissioners on the issue of allowing the keeping and raising of chickens in residential zones within urban growth boundary areas of the County Public hearing on the issue of keeping and raising poultry in residential zones within urban growth boundary areas of the County

Joe Fennimore, Principal Planner, reviewed the process the PC has been through to-date and background on this issue of keeping and raising poultry in residential zones within urban growth boundary areas of the County, referred by the Board of Commissioners.

Chair Grabenhorst asked for comments? Mr. Person stated he has concerns with the total number of chickens allowed. He referred to testimony that indicated some people will want to raise chicks hatched to replace hens that are no longer providing eggs. He feels this is reasonable. The total number allowed may be too low to accomplish this and suggested the limit be on the number of hens. Other members agreed and the group briefly discussed the point. Mr. Monders pointed out the City of Salem addressed this issue with a total number of six hens and perhaps the County should be the same. Mr. Anderson suggested allowing half as many chicks as hens.

Mr. Person asked about the prohibition on slaughter and could it be allowed for personal use? He indicated it would be the same as bringing home salmon to prepare for eating. His point is to bring up issues owners might try and do and this will allow the PC to cover as many potential issues as possible. Mr. Anderson stated he agreed with the suggestion on chicks and hens. The group briefly discussed personal slaughter versus commercial slaughter.

Mr. Anderson expressed concern on the requirement of allowing chickens only in fenced rear yards and suggested it be changed to only in fenced rear yards or fenced pens in rear yards. Chair Grabenhorst commented the concern is once they get out they will wander but having the secondary requirement of a fenced yard will help. Mr. Anderson indicated that made sense.

Mr. Monders stated he feels allowing 10 hens on a 10,000 square foot lot is too many. Mr. Long agreed and that it is only a quarter acre and with a house on the lot that does not leave much room for 10 hens and, if changed, an additional 5 chicks. The group briefly discussed the proposed change in total number and the impact on the larger lots. Mr. Anderson suggested limiting the number of hens to 6 and 3 chicks, which would give owners plenty of a total number of chickens. Mr. Monders reiterated the suggestion is to limit the number of hens to 6 for lots 7000 square feet or larger and Chair Grabenhorst replied that was correct.

There being no further questions or discussion, Chair Grabenhorst asked for a motion. Mr. Anderson made a motion that the Planning Commission recommend to the Board to adopt an ordinance allowing the keeping and raising of chickens in residential zoned properties within urban growth boundary areas of the County, including the list of recommended standards (a) through (i), and prohibitions (a) through (c) as modified by the Planning Commission's previous discussion (standards listed with the January 23, 2015 Memorandum from the Marion County Planning Division). The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

2. Adjournment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.