

Function

Task of the Planning Commission

The Planning Commission serves in an advisory capacity to the County Commission on land use matters within the unincorporated area of the County. The Commission considers requests for rezoning of property, conditional use permits, variances, administrative appeals, and text change amendments to the zoning ordinances. The Commissioners also sit as the Board of Adjustments for consideration of variances and administrative appeals. The Planning Commission consults the adopted zoning ordinances and the Comprehensive Plan when considering land use requests.



Strong Foundation. Strong Future.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

Minnehaha County Planning & Zoning



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Planning Commission

Board Members

There are seven people who serve on the Minnehaha County Planning Commission. Six members are appointed by the Board of County Commissioners and the seventh member is a County Commissioner. The County Commission member is selected at the start of the new calendar year. The remaining six members are appointed for five year terms and many request to serve for a second period. Each member is a resident of Minnehaha County and have traditionally lived within the rural area.

Meeting

Meeting Process

Planning Commission meetings are held on the 4th Monday of every month except for December or on holidays. The meetings start at 7:00 pm and are held in the County Administration Building located at 415 N. Dakota Ave. in Sioux Falls. The Commission meeting room is located on the 3rd floor on the north end of the building.

The Commission Chair runs the meeting and begins with introductory comments. The Chair then discusses the agenda.

Meeting Process Continued

The agenda will consist of two parts, consent and regular. The consent agenda contains items that are not known to be controversial or to have opposition. The Chair will read each of the consent items out loud and a map of the location will be displayed on the screen. After each item, the Chair will ask if anyone in the audience wishes to address the Commission on that item. If no one speaks out, the item will remain on the consent agenda. Once each item on the consent agenda has been read, the Planning Commission will take an affirmative vote on the consent agenda and pass all the items without a public hearing.

The Chair will then move on to the regular agenda. The Chair will read each item and request that a member of the Planning Department present the staff report. Following the report, the applicant may present their case to the Commission. After the applicant has spoken, the floor is opened up to anyone in the audience. Each person who speaks must come to the podium and state their name and address for the record. The Chair has the discretion to place time limits on testimony. The Commission may ask questions of the participants. When testimony is complete, the Chair will close the floor to public testimony and only the Commission will discuss the item. Following discussion, motions will be made and the Commission will vote on the item.

After the Meeting

Meeting Process

The Planning Commission makes decisions on a variety of different items, and the decisions can lead to many potential outcomes. Some decisions made by the Planning Commission are final and become effective according to the zoning ordinance and state law. Other decisions must be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners as a recommendation toward final approval. Still other items may be appealed for further review by the County Commission or even to the courts. Please contact planning staff for details on the process for specific items. There is likely dead-lines for actions such as appeals after the Planning Commission decision.

Information about the Planning Commission can be found on the County's website, www.minnehahacounty.org using the Planning Commission link. The current agendas, minutes of past meetings, list of Planning Commission members, and meeting deadlines are available.