

**MINUTES  
CITY OF AMES  
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION**

Date: October 20, 2010	Kori Heuss, Chairperson	2011
	Jeff Johnson	2011
Call to Order: 7:00 p.m.	Debra Lee	2012
	* Chuck Jons	2012
Place: Ames City Hall	* Elizabeth Beck, Vice-Chairperson	2012
Council Chambers	* Norman Cloud	2013
	Mark Stenberg	2013
Adjournment: 7:20 p.m.		
	*Absent	

**MAJOR TOPICS DISCUSSED:**

1. Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment Related to Fences
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CALL TO ORDER: Kori Heuss, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

MOTION: (STENBERG/JOHNSON) to approve the Agenda for the meeting of October 20, 2010.

MOTION PASSED: 4-0

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2010:**

MOTION: (JOHNSON/STENBERG) to approve the Minutes of the meeting of September 1, 2010.

MOTION PASSED: 4-0

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PUBLIC FORUM: There were no public comments.

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**Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment Related to Fences**

Sam Perry, planner, gave an overview of the Zoning Ordinance Text amendments related to fences. The zoning regulations for fences were amended partially in 2004, as a result of an increase in setback variances along street rights-of-way. However, there is still a lack of clarity and organized structure in the way that the regulations are formatted. Most of the changes are housekeeping amendments to provide clarity. There are a few substantive changes pertaining to exemption of fences in industrial zones and also pertaining to fence heights on retaining walls.

The proposed formatting and organization improvements of the fence zoning code include:

- Headings added to each categorical standard instead of the broad standard with various subsequent exceptions and variations.
- Setback and landscaping requirements have been consolidated into one section instead of being repeated.

- Front yard openness potentially being blocked by a neighboring owner's side yard fence is more concisely defined versus broadly referenced.
- The term "functional" as it pertains to front yard has been taken out because there is an existing definition for "yard" already in the zoning code that accomplishes the same policy.

The proposed changes that introduce new text include:

- Prohibition of barbed wire, razor wire, and electric fences
- Exemption of fence zoning code for industrial zones
- Clarification of retaining wall applicability

The proposed amendments provide needed organization and clarity on fence regulations. Staff believes that these changes would be in keeping with the intent of existing regulations, but would provide more easily defined provisions for their application. It is staff's recommendation that the Planning and Zoning Commission recommend that the City Council adopt the changes as proposed.

A brief question and answer period occurred between the Commission and staff clarifying the proposed amendments.

MOTION: (JOHNSON/STENBERG) to accept Alternative #1, which states:

The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended that the City Council adopt the amendments as proposed.

MOTION PASSED: 4-0

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COMMISSION COMMENTS: There were no Commission comments.

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STAFF COMMENTS: Staff reviewed the tentative agenda for the meeting of November 3, 2010.

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With no further business coming before the Commission, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

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Kori Heuss, Chairperson  
Planning & Zoning Commission

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Cindy L. Hollar, Recording Secretary  
Department of Planning & Housing