

Meeting Minutes
City Of Hendersonville
Planning Board, Lighting/Dark Sky Ordinance Committee

Monday, May 24, 2021

The sixth meeting of the City's Planning Board, Lighting/Dark Sky Ordinance Committee, convened at approximately 3:03 pm. Those in attendance at the virtual-only meeting were City Planners Matt Manley and Tyler Morrow, City Planning Board members Hunter Jones and Neil Brown, City Historic Preservation Commission member Ralph Hammond-Green, City resident Ken Fitch, Appalachian State Professor Don Caton, and GEcurrent System Manager Gary Steinberg.

Mr. Manley reiterated that the Committee's initial presentation to City Council is scheduled for 4:00 this coming Wednesday.

Discussion ensued regarding the Preamble on the draft MLO. Recommendations and disagreements ranged widely, concluding with Mr. Morrow being charged with modifying it for reconsideration at the next Committee meeting.

Mr. Manley recommended that the Historic District guidelines for the City be amended to require that outdoor lights be pointed downwards. Mr. Steinberg asked if Hendersonville has any such districts, and pointed out that there might be some limited areas where non-compliant lights (e.g. global designs) might be needed.

Updated GIS maps showing the impacts of previously-discussed LZ0 - LZ3 were presented. The elevation maps were updated to show the difference between setting LZ0 at 2300 vs. 2200 feet in elevation. Based on this, the Committee voted to set the altitude limit for LZ0 at 2200 feet.

Discussion then focused on possible compliance dates within the Ordinance. Mr. Steinberg suggested that the typical service life for non-compliant lights will center around 20 years. While this would eliminate non-compliant lights in about 30 years, he noted that there are few such lights currently in the City and suggested that we include a 10-year compliance mandate.

In closing, Mr. Manley stated that the Council presentation will consist of (1) How we got here, (2) What we are trying to do, and (3) Major policy issues. Mr. Caton will lead off before passing the baton to Mr. Manley and Mr. Morrow. In the interim, Mr. Hammond-Green will obtain photos showing various lighting differences and examples locally to graphically demonstrate the issue to Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Neil Brown