

ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE FOR A PRIORITIZED REVISION OF CHAPTER 10
OF THE DANE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES

The 2005 audit of the Department of Planning & Development asked the County Board to consider the benefits and drawbacks of a comprehensive revision of its zoning ordinances.

The audit also summarized that "...we were unable to identify any specific negative effects of out-of-date zoning ordinances in our interviews with staff, internal and external customers, or in focus groups. Further, as the legislative body for the County, the County Board has an ongoing opportunity to revise and amend the Code of Ordinances whenever it deems necessary."

In recent years, various committees have addressed specific issues in the zoning code. A subcommittee of the Strategic Growth Management Committee reviewed and drafted changes to the commercial zoning code, although introduced no ordinance amendments. The Mineral Extraction Committee developed policies and guidelines. Two years ago a subcommittee to the Environment, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee was formed to review Chapter 10, the Zoning Code, as well as Chapter 75, Land Division and Subdivision Regulation.

The Dane County Towns Association (DCTA) has, over the past seven years, except in a few instances, recommended that its members reject ordinance amendments because they preferred a comprehensive revision of the Code.

The County Board has not pursued a comprehensive revision of the Zoning Code because that would allow any town that so wished to opt out of countywide zoning. The rationale was that, in our rapidly developing area, a patchwork of zoning structures could exert pressure on neighboring communities whose aspirations were markedly different. Currently, the County has 34 towns with distinct plans that are approved and tied into the County Plan. This gives some assurance to neighboring municipalities as to what they may expect in their region.

Recently, the DCTA leadership has indicated that they do not intend to pursue revision as a way of getting out of zoning. Updating sections of the code may be acceptable to them. This resolution aims to accomplish that.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors hereby establishes a task force to review Chapter 10 of the Code of Ordinances for possible revisions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall have nine members, to be appointed as follows:

- A member of the Dane County Zoning and Land Regulation Committee, appointed by the committee chair;
- A member of the Dane County Environment, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, appointed by the committee chair;
- The President of the Dane County Towns Association, or his designee;
- The County Executive or her designee;
- The President of the Madison Area Builders Association, or his designee;
- A representative of the environmental community, appointed by the County Board Chair;
- The President of the Dane County Farm Bureau, or his designee; and
- Two at large members well-versed in planning and zoning, one appointed by the chair of the Environment, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and one appointed by the chair of the Zoning and Land Regulation Committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the task force is authorized to:

- Hold hearings.

- Study Chapter 10, including consideration of work completed in recent commercial district and mineral extraction reviews and identify problem areas.
- Report to the Board within 9 months of the passage of this resolution listing problem areas in priority order.
- Work with the DCTA and County Board Committees to resolve the top priority problems and then bring them to the towns and County Board for action.
- Add the prioritized list of ordinance revisions to the County Comprehensive Plan
- Continue work on the problem areas in priority order as time permits.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Planning & Development shall provide staff support for the task force with assistance from the Corporation Counsel and others as needed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force be paid mileage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall sunset one year after the adoption of this resolution unless renewed by the County Board.

Adopted by the Dane County Board of Supervisors May 3, 2007.