

Town of Liberty Grove
Minutes of the Plan Commission meeting on April 8, 2026

Agenda:

1. Call to order
2. Declaration of Quorum
3. Approve the Agenda
4. Approve the minutes from 3/25/26
5. Public input
6. Consider Dark Sky Ordinance
7. Consider adding 6-night minimum stay to STR Ordinance
8. Correspondence
9. Future meeting date(s)
10. Adjourn

Chairman Ward called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Commissioners Nancy Goss, Ann Miller, Cathy Ward, Cheryl Culver, Dan Watts, Bill Surbaugh, and Paul Bokelmann were present along with Administrator Lee Buckingham, Clerk/Treasurer Pamela Donart-Welcome and 28 members of the public.

Surbaugh moved, Goss seconded to approve the agenda as posted. **Carried 7 - 0**

Miller moved, Culver seconded to approve the 3/25/26 minutes as presented. **Carried 7 – 0**

Public Input: Prior to discussion on agenda item #7, Chairman Ward spoke to those in attendance. She explained that posted agendas are necessarily brief, and the “Consider adding 6-night minimum stay to STR Ordinance” item was on the agenda to allow for initial discussion by the Commissioners at a publicly posted meeting. She went further to say that if the Plan Commission decided to make a recommendation to the Town Board to take action, anyone currently owning an STR would be grandfathered in, and not affected by anything that comes out of this meeting, or the Town Board. Six members of the public then asked to speak on agenda item #7 (see below) at the appropriate time.

The Commissioners began the process of creating a **Dark Sky Ordinance** and then agreed to consider using the 2026 US Municipal Code from Dark Sky document as a starting place, and tailor it to the Town’s needs.

Item #7 Public input: Alissa Jacobson of Ellison Bay, Sasha Lee of Ellison Bay, Greyson Wolf Dixon of Baileys Harbor, and Robbie LeClair of Sister Bay all expressed their concerns and opposition to the idea of requiring a six-day minimum stay at their Short-Term Rentals, as it would hinder their ability to afford to live and work in the area. William Berry who owns property on Garrett Bay Road, spoke against the proposed six-day minimum for Short-Term rental, as it would affect his STR business. Karen Berndt of Baileys Harbor, and representative of Home Host of Door County, expressed concerns with the Town possibly requiring a six day minimum stay for Short-Term Rentals, as she believes it would affect tourism.

After hearing from the folks who spoke on the issue of a proposed six-night minimum for Short-Term Rentals, the Commissioners shared their comments & concerns and expressed an interest in continuing the conversation at a future meeting with a goal of finding ways in which the Town can have a balance between the increase in Short-Term Rental activity and the need for affordable homes and long-term rental options, so working individuals and families can have a place to live & work in our community.

Correspondence: none

Future Meeting: The next meetings was scheduled for April 22, 2026 at 7:00pm.

Miller moved, Culver seconded to adjourn at 9:07pm. **Carried 7 - 0**

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Donart-Welcome, Clerk/Treasurer
Approved on 4/22/26