

**CITY OF ELYSIAN
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 2, 2025**

The Elysian Planning and Zoning Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at City Hall at 6:00 pm.

Present were Chairperson Paul Hunter; Commissioners Patrick Ely, Dan Engebretson, and Kim Denn; Zoning Administrator Lorri Kopischke. Absent: None.

On motion by Engebretson, seconded by Denn, all voting in favor, to approve the agenda of the December 2, 2025 meeting as presented.

On motion by Ely, seconded by Denn, all voting in favor, to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2025 Regular Meeting as presented.

The Commissioners reviewed a recap of variance, conditional use permit, and planned unit development requests received and acted upon in calendar year 2025.

Charles Becker, Safe Wakes for Minnesota Lakes, joined the Commissioners in a Zoom call that commenced at 6:15 pm.

Many of the residents in Elysian are concerned with the number of wake boats operating on Lake Francis. Lake Francis is a 980-acre lake with a maximum depth of 63 feet. There are approximately 40 wake boats on lifts on the lake and that does not take into account the number of wake boats that enter the lake via the public access. The concerns are the effect on water quality, land erosion, docks, lifts, moored watercraft, and public safety.

Becker provided data from several studies. The most recent completed by the University of Minnesota, Phase 1 studied the wakes created by wake boats to the wakes created by typical recreational boats. The published results stated that wake boats should be 500 feet from shore (based on maximum wave height), 575 feet from shore (based on total wave energy), and 600 feet (based on maximum wave power). Phase 2 of the published study states that wake boats should be restricted to water that is a minimum of 20 feet deep.

The State of Vermont is the only state that has enacted law to regulate wake boats. In the State of Wisconsin 75 jurisdictions have enacted regulations that prohibit wake sports in their jurisdiction. In the State of Minnesota there is one lake, Caribou Lake in Cook County, that has approved an ordinance to restrict wake sports to 500 feet from shore and water that is 20 feet deep. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources remains neutral on the issue.

Becker reported that in his research he found that Lake Francis is one of the 500 lakes that might be compatible with wake sports. But of the 980-acres only 155-acres are said to be compatible.

Becker encouraged Commissioners to visit the Safe Wakes for MN Lakes website:
<https://www.safewakes.org/>

The Commissioners will continue discussion of this topic at their next meeting on February 3, 2026.

There was no further business to come before the Commission.

On motion by Ely, seconded by Engebretson, all voting in favor, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Attest:

Paul Hunter, Chairperson

Lorri Kopischke, Zoning Administrator