

MINUTES
BLOOMINGTON PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2015, 4:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL
109 EAST OLIVE STREET, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Balmer, Mr. Cain, Mr. Diamond, Mr. Wills, Mr. Protzman,
Mr. Scritchlow, Mr. Suess

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Cornell, Mr. Pearson, Mr. Stanczak

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Tom Dabareiner, Community Development Director
Ms. Vasu Pinnamaraju, Executive Director of McLean County
Regional Planning Commission

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Cain called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Dabareiner called the roll. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MINUTES: The Commission reviewed the March 11, 2015 minutes. Mr. Balmer moved to approve the March 11, 2015, minutes as presented. Mr. Wills seconded the motion which passed by a vote of 7-0 with the following votes being cast on roll call: Mr. Scritchlow-yes; Mr. Pearson-absent; Mr. Cain-yes; Mr. Balmer-yes; Mr. Protzman-yes; Mr. Wills-yes; Mr. Stanczak-absent; Mr. Diamond-yes; Mr. Cornell-absent; Mr. Suess-yes.

REGULAR AGENDA:

MHP-01-15. Public hearing and review on the petition submitted by PMO Properties, LLC requesting approval of a Site Plan for PMO Properties Manufactured Mobile Home Park which is located east of Greyhound Road approximately 220' south of E. Hamilton Road, and approximately 27.98 acres.

Chairman Cain stated the petitioner has requested that the case be laid over to the second meeting in April.

Chairman Cain opened the public hearing and asked if there was anyone who would like to speak in this case and no one spoke. Chairman Cain closed the public hearing.

Mr. Dabareiner stated that discussions are still going on and the petitioner indicated they need another month. They are looking for a motion to table to April 22. Mr. Balmer questioned the acreage and Mr. Dabareiner stated it is 7.98 acres.

Mr. Diamond moved to table case MHP-01-15 to the second meeting in April. Mr. Balmer seconded the motion which passed by a vote of 7 to 0 with the following votes being cast on roll

call: Mr. Scritchlow-yes; Mr. Cain-yes; Mr. Balmer-yes; Mr. Protzman-yes; Mr. Wills-yes; Mr. Diamond-yes; Mr. Suess-yes.

OLD BUSINESS: Discussion of Comprehensive Plan

Chairman Cain introduced the discussion and thanked everyone from the working groups for all their work. Ms. Pinnamaraju highlighted existing conditions such as the number of park acres and trails, the percentage of adults and children with obesity, and walkable distances to grocery stores and schools. Our growth and types of industries depend on our natural resources and water is a critical one. She stated the Regional Greenways Plan identifies linear parks which have storm water benefits. Environmental issues are best addressed at regional levels. She also highlighted conditions pertaining to environmental contaminants, aging infrastructure, recycling progress, the landfill closure and electronic recycling. Our city's corporate boundary growth has far exceeded the population growth. Crime has been coming down but calls for service has been going up. She identified the concentrated areas of crime.

Stephen Moist, representing the Healthy Living Group stated their overall vision is that Bloomington will practice environmental stewardship and provide healthy and active lifestyle choices for all. Katie Novak stated they looked at safe parks, a great walking and biking network that will enhance healthy lifestyles. They looked at providing a food secure community with access to locally grown food. The food services need to be provided to the needy. They highlighted the group's goals focusing on maintenance and usage of parks, and providing green space systems. We should have accessible, smoke free, and safe parks. They emphasized quality park development and programing. They encourage providing local foods, access to healthy foods and promoting food security, and education on healthy choices. Mr. Balmer asked if the group is incorporating the new city bicycle plan. He received an affirmative response.

Adrienne Hahn and Mark Larsen made a presentation representing the Natural Environment Group. Ms. Hahn stated they started with the survey responses and citizens who are passionate about the natural environment. She stated there is a disconnect in understanding how important the natural resources are for our daily lives and in managing the resources for the future. This is due to a lack of education on environmental issues. It is essential that we plan on how to use the natural resources. The growth can push us over the containments. Their goals pertain to protecting and conserving the natural resources and creating a park and green space system. Other goals reduce pollutants, increase cooperation among agencies, and provide a more efficient and sustainable solid waste management.

Mr. Ken Bays and Ms. Surena Fish, spoke representing the Public Safety Group. The group reviewed the surveys. A major goal is to reduce crime and the fear of crime. He said growth is a good thing but it comes with needs and expectations that can out grow our ability to respond. We need resident and corporate involvement. They stated their vision is for responsive emergency services to ensure safety and security for residences to live, learn, work and play. It takes everybody for this to work. Other goals are planning and providing adequate emergency facilities, a comprehensive emergency preparedness plan, and for intergovernmental cooperation. An objective is to establish a six minute response time for fire and EMS calls.

There was discussion on the increases in emergency calls, the empowering of the citizens, housing density in relation to crime, improvements to emergency response times, farmland preservation and growth. The Healthy Living Group found that Wal-Mart does not help the west side food desert in that it is not easily accessible being across the interstate. Bringing a grocery store to the west side along with food like that of the farmer's market will make a difference. Improving healthy trees and agri-tourism were also discussed.

Chairman Cain asked for any additional comments from the public. One person suggested establishing a permanent farmers' market outside of the downtown due to the disruption it causes in her opinion, to downtown businesses. Mr. Cain suggested her comments are better suited at this time for one of the other working groups.

Chairman Cain thanked all of the working group members for all of their time.

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come to the Bloomington Planning Commission's attention, Mr. Suess moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Scritchlow supported the motion which was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Woolard, City Planner

For further information contact:

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