

CITY OF IONIA
Planning Commission
Wednesday, October 11, 2017
Regular Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER The Regular Meeting of the City of Ionia Planning Commission for October 11, 2017 was called to order by Chairperson Tim Lee at 4:32 PM.

ROLL CALL Roll Call revealed Commissioners Dave Cook, Mark Jennings, Gordon Kelley, Tim Lee, and Judy Swartz present. Commissioners Boomer Hoopough and Chris Young were excused.

Public present included Attorney Randi Hermiz, Janis Johnson, Main Street Planning Company and City Manager Jason Eppler.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA Chairperson Lee reviewed the agenda with the Commission. After review, it was moved by Commissioner Cook, seconded by Commissioner Jennings, to approve the agenda for the October 11, 2017 meeting as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES The Commission reviewed the minutes of the September 13, 2017 Regular Meeting. After review it was moved by Commissioner Jennings, seconded by Commissioner Cook, to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2017 Commission meeting as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENTS None.

OLD BUSINESS Medical Marihuana Facilities Licensing Act: The Commission continued its discussion from the September meeting regarding the Michigan Medical Marihuana Facilities Licensing Act and whether to recommend to City Council that the City “opt in” and permit business uses in the City as identified in the act. The City Manager reviewed with the Commission the five categories of business activity permitted by the Act (a community may opt-in in all categories or specific ones and may cap the number of licenses permitted per category):

- Growers
- Processors
- Secure Transporters
- Safety Compliance Facility Operator
- Provisioning Center

Per the Act, Growers may only be permitted on properties zoning industrial.

Mr. Randi Hermiz, an attorney who specializes in this field of law, provided the Commission with an update in terms of activities associated with the Act at the State level. He reported that the Commission charged with developing the regulations for State level licensing is progressing with their work. He also reported that a House bill introduced in September which would prohibit the State Treasurer from distributing State aid to communities which have opted in under the Act does not appear to have support in the legislature.

Chairperson Lee introduced discussion regarding the direction the Commission would like to take in terms of the Act and the process to be followed. He asked the City Manager to distribute sample ordinances from other communities which have opted in per the Act.

The Commission discussed the categories of businesses the act permits, the City's current prohibition on dispensaries, the current ordinance language pertaining to the caregiver/patient relationship and associated growing, if the City opts in – appropriate zoning districts/locations for the uses and distances from schools/parks/churches.

Planning Consultant Johnson shared information associated with her research of and understanding of the Act.

After further discussion, Chairperson Lee stated that a committee consisting of himself, Commissioner Swartz and the City Manager would begin developing a draft ordinance opting in per the Act and provide it to the Commission. The draft will act as a conversation piece to assist the Commission in continuing its discussion on this topic.

Commissioner Jennings left the meeting at 5:21 PM.

NEW BUSINESS

Master Plan/Recreation Plan Update: The City Manager shared with the Commission that per State statute, the Commission needs to soon begin the process of completing the five-year review of the City's Master Plan. He also stated that the City's Parks and Recreation Plan will soon expire and should be updated by the Parks and Recreation Commission in order for the City to continue to be eligible for State grants. In 2012, the two plans were updated simultaneously. He further stated that he asked Mrs. Johnson to prepare a

memorandum outlining the process to update the Master Plan and offer thoughts on updating the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Her firm assisted in updating both plans in 2012.

Mrs. Johnson reviewed with the Commission her Memorandum on this topic dated October 10, 2017. She reviewed the Memorandum with Commission highlighting the statutory process to be followed; option for soliciting public input (the Commission prefers an on-line survey); the development of goals/priorities/actions to be addressed during the next five years; interplay between the Master Plan and the State's Redevelopment Ready Communities certification which the City is pursuing and the process for adopting the plan. She also reviewed the process for updating the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and will soon be meeting with the City's Parks and Recreation Commission to start this process.

The City Manager stated that his goal is to have both plans updated and adopted by the end of 2018. He stated that he would like to have the Commission begin work on updating the plan at its November meeting and work consistently on the plan throughout the first half of 2018 until the draft is completed and the adoption process can begin. He will soon be meeting with Mrs. Johnson to develop a calendar of tasks for the Commission to complete.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS None.

ADJOURNMENT It was moved by Commissioner Cook, seconded by Commissioner Swartz to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 PM. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason Eppler, City Manager/Recording Secretary
for Dave Cook, Secretary