

MEETING MINUTES FOR CRAFTON BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION

April 26, 2022

6:30 PM via Zoom

Crafton Commissioners: Kirsten Compitello (Chairwoman), Lydia Herring (Secretary), Eric Valcheff, Matt Greiner

Call to order: 6:33 pm

Roll call: Kirsten Compitello, Eric Valcheff, Matt Greiner, Lydia Herring

Citizen Comments: None (no citizens present)

Crafton Planning Commission Roles and Announcements

Crafton Planning Commission members welcomed a new member, Matt Greiner, who was appointed to fill a vacancy left open when Colton Chandler stepped down. Matt has been a Crafton resident for his entire life, has completed a lot of development/redevelopment in Crafton (Contractor by trade) and owns Matt's Circle Inn. He's looking forward to helping move Crafton forward via his position on Planning Commission.

Kirsten announced there is still one Planning Commission vacancy open as of April 2022 (position previously held by Rich Kraemer whose term ended). The group committed to filling commission vacancies is working to fill the role. Discussion followed around vacancy process and role descriptions/posting location.

Resources Overview: Kirsten described the Planning Commission google drive folder (meeting agendas, references, minutes, visioning documents, past powerpoints, recordings, initiatives); Kirsten also relayed that the Comprehensive Plan is posted on the borough website. Planning Commission main goal is to uphold the Comprehensive Plan. Lydia suggested the read/write privileges of the folders get updated to include new members and remove previous members.

Recordings: Kirsten relayed that all meetings are recorded, will be posted on YouTube via borough website.

Zoning Project Update

Kirsten provided background on the Zoning Ordinance Rewrite process to date for the benefit of Matt getting up to speed. She relayed that the borough put out an RFP a few years ago for zoning ordinance rewrite, various events delayed progress, including that Crafton and Ingram decided to work jointly to obtain a DCED grant. The grant was awarded this past winter and Crafton and Ingram reissued a new Request for Proposal (RFP) with a slightly modified scope. Three firms proposed. All three were interviewed last week. The Interview Committee comprised of 3 Ingram and 3 Crafton residents. ZoneCo was recommended by that interview committee to both councils. Councils are to vote to proceed officially at upcoming meetings.

Committee participation discussion: Kirsten posed to Planning Commission an invitation to discuss how we'd like to participate in the Zoning Project. All members expressed interest in being intimately involved in the zoning ordinance rewrite process via steering committee or working group or through regular Planning Commission.

Parks Master Site Plan Update: Kirsten announced that the draft final version of the Parks Master Site Plan set is to be submitted to the state for sign-off (2-3 month process). Borough council to sign off after. Wrap-up steering committee meeting to be set up soon.

MOTION: Kirsten motioned for Council put out a press release with the consultant name to announce Zoning Ordinance. Lydia Seconded. All agreed.

Planning Commission discussed how best to get community involvement in the zoning project (social media, press releases, SavvyCitizen blasts, physical flyers at churches) and the importance of it.

Upcoming Initiatives (to revisit in the next few months)

Workshops: Kirsten recapped that the last few years, there have been some workshops held for the community (e.g., Crafton Blvd Infrastructure/Streetscaping, Linden St, Eco-Districts).

Electric vehicle charging practices: Borough engineers brought up at last council meeting. Tripping hazard (electric cord across sidewalk). PC was asked to look into how other communities handle this. Crafton may want to consider putting an ordinance put in place regarding how electric charging can take place safely. DLC charging stations on borough property a possibility. Eric suggested potentially holding a workshop on this topic to present best practices and discuss with community. All agreed this was a good idea.

Brick streets preservation.

Dark sky ordinance (impacts type and level of lighting allowed)

Action Items: Eric suggested more immediately starting a google drive folder and open document to drop ideas into for upcoming initiatives.

Review of March minutes: As a follow up on a topic discussed during March's meeting, Eric suggested that Crafton apply for the Greenways Trails, and Recreation Program (GTRP) grant to use toward the Trolley Trail improvements outlined in the Parks Master Site Plan. Since Pittsburgh City has funding this year to improve the trail, this prioritization would make sense politically. Eric discussed with Wayne Fontana and feels he'd provide his support. Kirsten relayed that council is discussing this possibility already.

MOTION: Eric motioned to approve March meeting minutes. Lydia seconded. All agreed.

Citizen Comments: None

Adjourn: 7:51 pm