

Columbia Township Planning Commission Minutes

Meeting Date: Tuesday March 6, 2018 7:00 pm

1. Call to order by Chairperson Mahr at 7:03

Guests: Cindy Hubbell, President of the Brooklyn Irish Hills Chamber of Commerce, Rick Church, Columbia Township Zoning Enforcement.

Roll Call: Trout, Jeffries, McKay, Gaede, Mahr, Wanty Absent: Reynolds

2. Motion to approve the agenda made by McKay, support by Trout, Ayes all. Motion approved.

3. Motion by McKay support by Gaede to approve the minutes of December 5, 2017 Meeting, Ayes all, motion approved.

4. Public Comments: Cindy Hubbell, President/CEO of the Brooklyn Irish Hills Chamber of Commerce spoke to the Commission about a Winery that would like to start operations in Columbia Township. To date the owner has been denied approval by the Township. She discussed the importance of Agra/Tourism and the need for this type of Business in our Township for tourism. She presented a proposed Ordinance from Rollin Township for review. She pointed out that all neighboring Townships have successfully allowed Wineries to start operations and have provided important revenue improvements for area businesses.

Public Comments closed.

5. Gaede discussed the current Columbia Township PC By-Laws and whether or not they follow the State guidelines. The Review was tabled until the next meeting, as several members had not had a copy to review. It was discussed that we get recommendations from Mark Eidelson of Land Planning, prior to review and approval of any changes to the By-Laws.

6. Discussed the need to make sure meeting times are noted on all Public Meeting notices. 7:00 pm

7. Re-Opened public Comments: None were made.

8. Gaede discussed the Planning Commission Member, that also sits on the Zoning Board of Appeals as the Liaison, When/Why and is there a conflict of interest.

Commissioner Comments:

- A. Chairperson Mahr discussed a recent ZBA meeting that was postponed, due to only 4 members being present, the two requestors opted to re-schedule, and one may have pulled the request. McKay, Wanty, Mahr and Gaede had attended the Columbia Township Board Special Meeting on Monday March 5, 2018 for a review of the proposed Zoning Ordinance changes.

B. McKay commented on the proposed change in Zoning Ordinance Item 20.11. This item was discussed in length during the Board meeting; it was felt that several changes need to be made to be compliant with Building and Engineering Standards. McKay also commented that the City of Houston Texas, the 5th largest in the U.S. has no Zoning Regulations at all. Jeffries also commented on a similar situation In Pennsylvania.

Meeting Schedule for 2018

Tuesday June 5, 2018 7:00 pm

Tuesday September 4, 2018 7:00 pm

Tuesday December 4, 2018 7:00 pm

McKay motioned, support by Jeffries to send our support for adoption of zoning changes to allow for Agra/Tourism/ Winery to the Township Board. Ayes All.

Motion by McKay, support by Jeffries to adjourn 7:55 pm. Ayes All.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Wanty

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