



**PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 13TH, 2016
1:00 PM**

Chairman Joel B. Day called the meeting of the New Philadelphia Planning Commission to order, on Tuesday, December 13th, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the John Knisely Municipal Centre.

Chairman Day welcomed members of the commission and thanked them for attending. The secretary had roll call.

Members in attendance: Dick Bible, Ron McAbier, Don Kemp, Gary Little, Cheryl Ramos and Kelly Watson

Excused: John Stratton and Jackie Triplett

Guests: Maureen Wenger, Mike Scolati, Dean Holland, Jan McInturf, Julie Levensgood Stephon and Bill Weisgarber

A motion was made by Don Kemp to accept November's minutes. It was seconded by Dick Bible. Motion unanimously passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Chairman stated he will be setting up an organizational meeting in January with members of the Downtown Redevelopment District and Innovation District Task Force. Julie Levensgood, Jan McInturf, Bill Weisgarber and Trent Troyer has agreed to be a part of this task force in addition to Planning Commission members Don Kemp and Dick Bible.

The Mayor asked Gary Little if he had any thoughts on the Central Business District and the re-zoning issue within. Mr. Little stated he thought that it probably wasn't a good idea right now.

Chairman Day asked Zoning & Building Code Administrator, Mike Scolati to report on what he has found out about signage and off premises advertising. Mr. Scolati explained that several key issues are changing the laws governing signage:

- U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that signage within a municipality is freedom of speech. Sign companies are using the 1st and 14th amendments to the Constitution to win court battles over commercial signage.
- The City Law Director has said that the city can't regulate the content but can control time, place and manner in addition to size, font and color. It was suggested that the city halt any changes until new laws are in place.

The Mayor said he believes that overlays could be made over the city's zoning to restrict the locations of digital signs and billboards. He said it will be up to the Planning Commission to determine what changes could be made to the city's Codified Ordinances, then recommend them to City Council's Zoning and Annexation Committee.

Service Director McAbier distributed handouts on the proposed storm sewer system originally presented by Rob Edwards and located off Jefferson Avenue on the city's south side. A brief discussion was held. The members asked Mr. McAbier to review Mr. Edwards' plans and then present his findings to the Planning Commission during January's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Day informed the Planning Commission that last night at council, members gave voice approval to the purchase of the Carlisle Canoe Livery at a price of \$24,000. He would like to see a small park and boat launch there. He will be meeting with Dan Rice of the Ohio & Erie Canal Coalition next week to talk about available grant money to develop the site and connect it to the Towpath Trail.

The chairman added that he is still working with the Coniglio's to have their the property on South Broadway donated to the city. It sits on the Towpath Trail and he would like to see this area used as an additional boat launch area as well as a trailhead.

Don Kemp made a motion to adjourn at 1:49 p.m. Kelly Watson seconded it. Meeting adjourned.



Chairman Joel B. Day



Secretary Mary Ann Otte