



**PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 17TH, 2017
1:00 PM**

Chairman Joel B. Day called the meeting of the New Philadelphia Planning Commission to order, on Tuesday, October 17th, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the John Knisely Municipal Centre.

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

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

Excused: Lucas Moreland and John Stratton

Guests: Maureen Wenger, Mike Scolati, Jeff Erb, Mary Kurtz, Bill Weisgarber, Jan McInturf
From the University of Cincinnati School of Architecture:
Professor Michael McInturf and graduate students Jonathan Tomko, Sho Sugimoto, Amanda Fortman and Stephanie Bross

Motion was made by Don Kemp to accept the September minutes. The motion was seconded by Ron McAbier. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Day introduced Michael McInturf, Instructor at the University of Cincinnati, Master of Architecture Studio. Mr. McInturf has been working with his students on a project of growth and direction and developing a master plan for the City of New Philadelphia. He wants to center on the future of small towns in the Midwest through the year of 2050, producing visions of where and how that might look through the years.

The students introduced themselves and told commission members that, as third year graduate students, they will be working further on the development of this master plan through April, 2018. The students then made separate presentations to the Planning Commission:

History & Agriculture: Jonathan Tomko spoke on the history of New Philadelphia back to the year 1803 where farming was based on self-sustenance. He talked about the history of the Ohio & Erie Canal and what a vital part it was over the early years, not just for pleasure but an important means of transportation for shipping coal and local farmers' crops. Lock Thirteen was located on the Southside of New Philadelphia and the lock keeper's home still stands nearby, privately owned.

Jonathan asked if commission members felt that agriculture should remain an integral part of the future plan of the city. Don Kemp said he felt that dairy farming is here to stay. In addition crop production is also an important tool to keep in mind. Jonathan asked where true and accurate data could be found and he was directed to contact the Ohio State University Extension Office. Anyone with helpful contacts, data or information should contact Mr. McInturf with that so it can be included in their efforts to devise a master plan.

Business: Sho Sugimoto gave his review of the business economy in New Philadelphia's future. There was discussion on local big business entities and what they manufacture. He talked of better business districts including zoning. He mentioned the idea of turning downtown alleys into useable space and better ideas needed for parking.

Education: Amanda Fortman discussed the use of education as an economic driver, bringing young people into the downtown by incorporating the fast growing Kent State Tuscarawas campus and its students with downtown living and downtown event planning. She said different modes of transportation to reach the downtown and other areas of the city should also be considered. Councilwoman, Cheryl Ramos suggested Ms. Fortman's focus include adult technical and career students at Buckeye Career Center.

Healthcare: Stephanie Bross gave an overview of hospitals and medical centers in our region. She pointed out that New Philadelphia is within good proximity to larger hospitals. The Mayor made mention that Union Hospital will soon become Cleveland Clinic. Stephanie advised that it is important to keep the senior population engaged in the community. Often time's senior living is built on the outskirts of town, away from daily living activities but she sees the need to keep the aging population as an integral part of the activities within the city. She suggested multi-generational planning as part of the master plan for the city.

In developing the plan, Mr. McInturf suggested the city start with the west end of town, keeping in mind the Kimble property being developed on County Road 21 and then move to what he referred to as the big box land near the river. He then felt the need to move into the primary business district and improve upon the older warehouses located in the downtown area. And finally address the area of the mall.

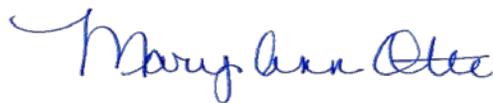
The master plan should be logical, utilizing what the city has to offer including the waterways.

The Mayor made a suggestion to the students to connect with Jane Clay, Clerk of the Tuscarawas County Commissioners who chairs the committee, Rails to Trails in the area.

With no further business to conduct, Mayor Day made a motion to adjourn. Ron McAbier seconded it. Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.



Chairman Joel B. Day



Secretary Mary Ann Otte