



STANWOOD PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

March 12, 2018

Call to Order

Chair Utgard called the meeting to order at 6:30PM with the following Commissioners present: Kelly McGill, Steve Shepro, Susan Ronken, Marcus Metz, Lance Dennis. Commissioner Randy Heagle was excused. Staff present; Community Development Director Ryan Larsen, Community Development Senior Planner Amy Rusko, Planning Commission Clerk Devin Sola. Known public in attendance: Cathy Wooten, Aleph Fackenthall, Dottie Gorsuch.

No Public Requests or Comments

Minutes

The minutes of the February 12, 2018 meeting were approved as presented.

Motion. Motion by Commissioner McGill second by Commissioner Metz to approve the minutes of February 12, 2018. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Discussion: Recreational Marijuana Rules

Public Comment:

Aleph Fackenthall, 6108 284th, Stanwood. Asked for handout he brought with him to be distributed to the Commissioners which included the survey results and questions. Thanked City staff and Commission for working on the retail marijuana sales ordinance. Stated that after the last meeting, opponents for retail marijuana felt that the City's intention was to pass this without citizen input. Citizens decided to put together an online survey. Informed the Commission of the survey results. The results reflected that the citizens desired a vote on this issue. Named some accidents due to marijuana usage. Stated he hopes that the Commission will recommend an advisory vote or something similar of its citizens to the City Council.

The Commission discussed:

- How the survey functioned
- Results and bias of the survey
- Click poll on newspaper
- Nothing sly on behalf of the City Council – Mayor and Council Members have been clear on their positions
- Public vote for a controversial topic – unfair to discriminate for this particular use
- Marijuana as a less dangerous substance in comparison to other substances
- Anonymous survey takers – some people from Colorado took the survey, only local people's comments were recorded

- Mr. Fackenthall shared his experience visiting a retail marijuana shop
- Medical benefits and usage of marijuana
- Citizens used to have better access when the marijuana business was behind the police station/residents from Josephine could go there

Mr. Larsen inserted that the public hearing on retail marijuana will be held on March 26, 2018 here at the Fire Station before the Planning Commission at 6:30PM.

Heritage Master Plan Presentation

Mr. Larsen gave a power point presentation on the Heritage Park Master Plan, informing the Commission that this process started this year and the City hired J.A. Brennan, consultant, to assist with the master plan. The City is also looking at purchasing the property to the west of Heritage park which is owned by Josephine. Mr. Larsen explained grant opportunities and what the City is looking at funding as well as reviewed the scope of work and timeline.

The Planning Commission and citizens discussed the following:

- ADA access to playground
- Soccer supply door – bashed in to access field paint
- Washroom accessibility year round
- Josephine field used to be used for the 4th of July / air force band
- Picnic tables/shelter, RV hook-ups
- Trail connectivity issues/possibilities- paved for ADA access, curvy trails preferred
- Trail connect to library from Heritage park
- Loop trail more enticing
- Skate park enhancements
- Concession stand
- Current dog park- citizens do not follow the rules (safety issue), possibly relocating it due to wet/mud (the Strawberry Field in Marysville a good example for a dog park)
- Clean up the ditches along Lover's Lane / provide parking via ditch grates for game days/tournaments
- Field turf- life expectancy
- What is involved in maintaining pipes/drainage for fields
- Wetland enhancements- wetland plants clean the air, make the park look nicer, potential benefit to grant applications
- Plaque at entrance to park- prefer consistency to current wayfinding signs
- Parking/bioswells – these take away from parking area
- RV parks- maintenance and water, generators cause noise
- Trail or interpretive signage, mile markers / Kiosks could draw nefarious behavior
- Benches and/or seating supported by Commissioners
- Restrooms preferably closer to fields
- Large shelter for microphone/PA system access, BBQ pit – tournament ready facility
- Open fields and also topo change so park is not all flat (view mound?)
- Possible spray park- big draw for families
- Venue: Highland games, music venue- a multi-purpose area as a destination
- Lighting improved – especially around skate park, but consider light pollution
- How late can a park stay open at night per the Stanwood Municipal Code?
- Food trucks
- Basketball court (long wait at Lions Park pick-up games), Alf's court in disrepair
- Tennis/pickle ball- no space

- Play features- nature features may be nice- something for young children/siblings to do when older siblings have games
- Can we enhance what we already have, Freedom Park on Camano Island as example
- Pump track around perimeter
- Skate park features- linear vs snakes
- Ovenell: passive recreation such as music, walking, picnic tables, boardwalks/look-out points/learning center are allowed because of conservation easement

Mr. Larsen stated that he will forward these suggestions and feedback to the consultant and return to the Commission in the future with designs in order to get more feedback.

Public Comment:

Tim Schmidt, 27308 101st Ave NW, Stanwood. Thanked the Commission for their time. Stated that he believes the idea of marijuana being good or bad should not be framework for this decision. This is a complex debate that even experts cannot decide on. Gave background on testimonies given in Seattle. As an example, if an adult bookstore wanted to locate in Stanwood we most likely would not be debating the morality of it. Supports allowing retail marijuana sales.

Cathy Wooten, 27828 84th Dr., Stanwood. Said that when a person is appointed by the Mayor to be on the Planning Commission and elected to be on the City Council, the question is who are you representing? Are you representing a special interest group or the people of the community. Recalled that when Dottie was on the Council she would run through whether or not the topic of discussion would be good for our children. Also recalled speaking to Council Member Elizabeth Callaghan both when she was a Commissioner and a Council Member and how Council Member Callaghan would represent the single people in our community. Who is thinking of younger children and our older citizens? Makes me think who is holding the entire community in their decision-making. Stated that she sees the Commission as representing the community and being proactive in their decision-making. Thanked the Commission for their service and asked them to hold the greater community in mind.

Dottie Gorsuch, 27519 80th Dr., Stanwood. Read a statement in response to her comments from the previous meeting. Stated that the last time she had spoken she was considered to be complaining and would like to correct that view. Said that she is passionate about representing the community including children. She hopes that the Commission will be informed about the issue and support the community's desire to keep the City safe and clean. Added that she attends church to pray for the community and described an article about a young lady found on a roadside who had overdosed and this makes her strive to make sure that Stanwood remains a safe and wholesome community. Reiterated that she loves this community and the summer fun such as movies in the park, touch a truck, the downtown music concerts and safe night out. Supports City parks and while on Council voiced her concern about having a hotel where visitors may stop and shop while attending sporting events at Heritage Park.

Commissioner McGill thanked Ms. Gorsuch for her comments and stated that anything out of moderation can be a detriment to children such as too much white refined sugar. Stated that he believes it is the parent's job to educate their children on the vices and virtues of things that they will encounter in their life and less to dictate what others are doing such as QFC

having open cases of alcohol at the entrances/exit doors. Have heard no complaints about the alcohol. This is a cultural vs logical argument.

Commissioner Ronken added that she feels like she is representing people such as her brother and the residents of Josephine- people who are suffering.

Mr. Larsen reminded the audience that there will be a public hearing on March 26, 2018.

Aleph Fackenthall, 6108 284th, Stanwood. Inquired if anyone knows of a business that would assist with transportation to those who would like to purchase marijuana products, specifically if a City says no to marijuana retail sales. Mr. Larsen answered that he is not aware of a business that does this.

The Planning Commission discussed over the counter CBD products such as ointments available through grocery stores.

No Old Business

No Miscellaneous Business & Upcoming Items

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Devin M. Sola, City of Stanwood