

Community Planning Committee (C.P.C.) - Village Of Arden

Minutes Of Meeting Held On Wednesday June 15, 2016

Present: Ray Seigfried, Ron Meick, Mark Wood and Dan McNeil

Member Absent: Cynthia Dewick and Sally Sharp

Sub-Committee Present: None

Meeting called to order by Ray Seigfried as the Committee Chairman at 7:30 PM

The minutes of the meeting for May 2016 were reviewed, discussed and approved by those committee members in attendance.

The topics addressed in this meeting include: (1) HB 192 -Firearms in Public Facilities; (2) Vacant Housing Ordinance; (3) Comprehensive Land Use Plan / Village Transformation Project; and (4) Memorial Garden / Community Garden Sub-Committees

Guest Appearance: None

House Bill 192 - Firearms in Public Facilities

Over the past year, Ray has expressed an interest in formulating a firearms policy, specifically within Gild Hall and the Buzz Ware Community Center. Earlier this year, Ray met with the Arden Club which passed a motion in support of this initiative.

Delaware State Law currently permits the local jurisdiction to establish an ordinance precluding the possession of a firearm during an official open meeting. It is also the responsibility of the local jurisdiction to post sufficient notification and signage of this ordinance, and to pay for the presence of the County Police at these open meeting.

A prospective ordinance is technically possible, however, the burden and cost of administration and security may preclude its feasibility. Ray is preparing a presentation for the upcoming Advisory Meeting and Village Assembly in June 2016.

Village of Arden Vacant Housing Ordinance

Ray would like to establish a specific policy for how the funds collected through the violations can be spent on projects benefitting the community.

Comprehensive Land Use Plan & Village Transformation Project

Discussion on the stewardship of open public space and creation of a land use plan was identified in the September 2015 C.P.C. meeting as worthy of future discussion and potential action through the C.P.C. It was suggested that a Village Approved Master Land Use Plan created with professional assistance could address these questions/concerns in a comprehensive format.

Jeff Politis as Village Chairman has indicated in past C.P.C. meetings a strong interest in actively investing available funds in projects benefitting the Village. Both Jeff and Ray feel that the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Transformation Project reflect a dynamic synergy which potentially can be very beneficial to the Village Of Arden.

Ray is preparing a "Mission Statement" for introduction to the June 2016 Village Assembly on establishing an ad-hoc committee to identify "Transformational Projects". Steven Threefoot and Carol Larson have agreed to serve on this committee and are currently developing a process for identifying worthwhile projects.

Ray has also been reviewing the covenants, conditions and restrictions in the 1973 deed between the Trustees of Arden and the Village of Arden. A legal opinion was never prepared at the time of this conveyance and the issue has never been raised. In light of the aforementioned, Ray has deemed it necessary to first retain an attorney specializing in land use law for the purpose of preparing a legal opinion addressing the covenants, conditions and restricts affecting the Village's common area tracts of forest and green space.

Ray and Jeff Politis have been speaking with a recommended land use attorney and a draft agreement is currently being prepared on the scope of work and legal fees.

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Memorial Garden / Community Garden Sub-Committee

There was no update on the Community Garden or The Memorial Garden.

Lastly, it was decided that the C.P.C. would not meet next in July and August, but will reconvene in September.

The meeting was adjourned by Ray Seigfried as Committee Chairman at 7:57 PM

Meeting minutes compiled and prepared by Dan McNeil.