

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

Minutes Of Meeting Held On Wednesday May 18, 2016

Present: Ray Seigfried, Mark Wood and Dan McNeil

Member Absent: Cynthia Dewick, Ron Meick and Sally Sharp

Sub-Committee Present: None

Meeting called to order by Ray Seigfried as the Committee Chairman at 7:05 PM

The minutes of the meeting for April 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. The cost of signage and police presence will likely cost in the range of \$3,000 per year.

The pros and cons of developing and administering a firearms policy were discussed amongst the C.P.C. members in attendance. Ray then requested a vote on whether the C.P.C. should recommend development of a firearms policy for the Village of Arden. It was a unanimous decision that a firearms policy is not reasonable at this time. In lieu of no discernable past/current threat, the corresponding costs in developing and administering an effective policy is clearly onerous to the Village's leaseholders.

Ray hopes that the absent C.P.C. members can provide their recommendation in our June meeting. Ray would like to present the C.P.C.'s recommendations as part of a presentation for the upcoming Advisory Meeting and Village Assembly in June 2016.

Village of Arden Vacant Housing Ordinance

Jeff Politis as Village Chairman has expressed an interest in taking over all aspects of the administration of this ordinance. Details on this proposal will likely be discussed in future C.P.C. meetings.

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 benefiting 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 expressed an interest in serving on this committee.

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Ray has been reviewing the covenants, conditions and restrictions in the 1973 deed between the Trustees of Arden and the Village of Arden. Seven (7) common area tracts of forest and green space were conveyed to the Village as part of its incorporation in accordance with State Law. Ray's interpretation of the "CC&R's" has led to a serious concern on the legal ramifications regarding legally permitted uses/changes to the common areas without a Village Referendum. This is related to recent civic improvements on the "Green" and an easement to an individual leasehold for water runoff.

A legal opinion was never prepared at the time of the conveyance in 1973 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 (7) common area tracts of forest and green space.

In the April 2016 meeting, the members of the C.P.C. were in general agreement with this idea since the legal opinion will benefit the community. In addition, a motion was made and seconded in support of retaining the legal services of a land use attorney. Consequently, 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.

Ray has proposed using the monies collected from the Village's Vacant Housing Ordinance in order to pay for this legal opinion. Ray is now preparing a presentation for the upcoming Village Assembly in June.

Memorial Garden / Community Garden Sub-Committee

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

The meeting was adjourned by Ray Seigfried as Committee Chairman at 7:45 PM

Meeting minutes compiled and prepared by Dan McNeil.