

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

Minutes Of Meeting Held On Wednesday September 21, 2016

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

Member Absent: Cynthia Dewick and Sally Sharp

Sub-Committee Present: Toby Ridings and Dave Jones

Meeting called to order by Ray Seigfried as the Committee Chairman at 7:04 PM

The minutes of the meeting for June 2016 were reviewed, discussed and approved by those committee members in attendance. There were no C.P.C. meetings in July and August.

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

Guest Appearance: None

Memorial Garden / Community Garden Sub-Committee

Toby Ridings reported a very successful season with all residents of the Arden's accommodated with individual growing plots. Toby also provided to Ray a summary of participants, dues collected, expenses and other miscellaneous metrics.

Toby reported that several local residents have expressed concern that individual garden participants appear to be using the same plots over consecutive seasons. This practice is claimed to be outside "Georgist Principles" and should be prohibited.

Ray indicated that the C.P.C. will work with the Community Garden and the local residents making this claim in order to reach a reasonable compromise. Ray suggested perhaps bringing Mike Curtis, Elizabeth Varley and Sadie Somerville into the discussion since each is considered knowledgeable on Georgist Principles.

Ray will work with Toby in starting a discussion on this issue.

There was no update on The Memorial Garden.

Village of Arden Vacant Housing Ordinance

Over the past year, it has become apparent that there was no official process in place on how the funds collected through the violations could be spent on projects benefitting the community. As such, Ray has expressed the importance of establishing an official transparent process.

Ray presented a draft process to the Advisory Committee and the Village Officers who in turn have refined into a process which will be presented at the upcoming Village Meeting in late September. It is the intention of the process to encourage village residents to submit projects for consideration, however, final approval will likely be required by the Village Officers.

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 prepared a "Mission Statement" which was introduced 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. Steven Threefoot will present this process in the upcoming Village Meeting in late September.

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Ray indicated that the Stewardship Program can begin in earnest once the process has been established for developing standards and guidelines.

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 prepared a presentation for the Advisory Meeting where it was decided not to pursue this effort any further. This was reported to the Village Assembly in the June 2016 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by Ray Seigfried as Committee Chairman at 8:00 PM

Meeting minutes compiled and prepared by Dan McNeil.