

Town of Colonial Beach Planning Commission Minutes

Date: Thursday, September 16, 2014 – Town Center, 22 Washington Avenue

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Present: Robin Schick, Chairwoman
Robert Busick
Maureen McCabe, Vice Chairwoman
Kelly DeJesus

Absent: Ed Grant
Kent Rodenheaver

Staff: Planning Manager, Brendan McHugh

Item 1: Call to Order

Chairwoman Schick called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Item 2: Public Comment on Planning Commission Matters (not on the agenda)

Chairwoman Schick asked if there were any public comment on planning commission matters not on the agenda. There was no comment.

Item 3: Discussion on Planning Commission Vacancy

Chairwoman Schick then explained that the Planning Commission was going to interview the two applicants for the vacant Planning Commission position. She explained that they would be interviewed separately. Chairwoman Schick then asked the first applicant, Mr. John Reinhart to come up to the podium to be interviewed. Chairwoman Schick then asked Mr. Reinhart how familiar he was with the Planning Commission. Mr. Reinhart then explained that it was his first meeting. Mr. Reinhart confirmed that he had many years of experience in construction and was a Public Works Director for five years at a municipality in Northeast Pennsylvania. Mr. Reinhart explained that he has been involved with Chamber activities for twelve years. Vice Chairwoman McCabe asked Mr. Reinhart if he foresaw any conflict of interest with the Planning Commission concerning being a contractor in the town. Mr. Reinhart explained that he did not see a conflict. He explained that he would like to see improvement in Colonial Beach and then explained that his experience could be very valuable to the town. Mr. Reinhart explained that he had been in Colonial Beach for twelve years. Member Busick then stated for the record that he had collaborated with Mr. Reinhart both professionally and personally. He then explained that he had worked with both candidates. He said that if he needed to recuse himself, it would be for both candidates. Member Busick then asked Mr. Reinhart if he would complete the Planning Commission training. Mr. Reinhart confirmed that he would complete the training. Chairwoman Schick then asked Mr. Reinhart if he had any questions for the Planning Commission. Mr. Reinhart explained that he would like to be a part of the group as long as they are productive. He explained that he would like to impact Colonial Beach in a positive way. Chairwoman Schick then explained that she believed that the current Planning Commission seems to be more productive than Planning Commissions of the past. She believed that the Planning Commission training seems to spark productivity. The Planning Commission thanked Mr. Reinhart for applying.

Mr. Cirbee then approached the podium to be interviewed. Vice Chairwoman McCabe then asked what Mr. Cirbee believed the Planning Commission should be. Mr. Cirbee then explained that he believed that the Planning Commission has had, “a lot of its teeth taken out over the years”. He explained that a lot of effort and work is done by the commission and it gets very little attention by Town Council. He believed the council should listen to commissions and staff. He wants to make the Planning Commission more effective. Member Busick asked Mr. Cirbee how he would correct the problem. He explained that the town just needs to follow its own rules and regulations. Chairwoman Schick then explained that the Planning Commission tries to support staff and talked about how Mr. Cirbee is involved in many town projects. She then asked if he foresaw any conflict of interest concerning staffs position on any issues. Mr. Cirbee then explained that he felt that there should be someone with a technical background in the Planning Commission. He also explained that he just felt that the ordinances that are passed should be enforced. He believed that without enforcement, ordinances are meaningless. He explained that his only conflict is people who do not follow rules. He believed that the Planning Commission should have a spot at the Town Council meeting. Mr. Cirbee then explained that he has been coming to Colonial Beach since 1960 and is devoted to the Town. Chairwoman Schick then asked if he was willing to do the Planning Commission Training Session. Mr. Cirbee then agreed that he would go to the session. Member McCabe then asked if he could comply with Robert’s Rules. Mr. Cirbee then confirmed that he would comply.

Member DeJesus then explained that she believed that the U.S. Government was founded on a democratic republic in which the average everyday citizens have a hand in the rules and plans they come up with. The reason being the career politicians are so far removed from the people they govern that the laws are absolutely ridiculous and ineffective. She believed that the two applicants are stronger because they are restrained by the ordinances as opposed to being conflicted. Chairwoman Schick then announced that Member DeJesus is officially resigning which left two positions open. Chairwoman Schick then explained that the Planning Commission is going to make the official decision in two weeks.

Item 4: Discussion on future Planning Commission topics

Chairwoman Schick then explained that she had asked Mr. McHugh to print out what the Planning Commission was currently working on as well as current projects within the Planning Department. She explained that her reasoning behind the document was to keep from getting off track. She felt that they should postpone the discussion until all new and old members are present for the discussion. Member Busick explained to Mr. Cirbee what the document that he and Vice Chairwoman McCabe put together concerning the Planning Commissions current status and operations. Vice Chairwoman McCabe then explained that she believed that the document was important to update the current status of the Planning Commission and the overall Comprehensive Plan for the town. Chairwoman Schick then explained that the work session should be scheduled on a separate day then the regular Planning Commission meeting. Vice Chairwoman McCabe then asked if there was anything on file from the previous goals and objectives for the year. Mr. McHugh then explained that there was an annual report defining what the Planning Commission had accomplished over the year.

Item 4: Other Topics

Mr. McHugh then explained that the Official Zoning Map had to be voted on again by the Planning Commission because the last Planning Commission Paper was not worded correctly. He explained that he would probably have to re-advertise it for the November meeting because it was too late for October.

Item 5: Adjournment

There was no further business. The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Chairperson, Colonial Beach Planning Commission