

Springfield Township
Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2023

Members Present: Karen Bedics, Bobb Carson, Angela Kelly, David Long, Dawn Nicholson, Bruce Whitesell, and Nicole Zane.

Also Present: James Hopkins, Anthony Matzura, James Nilsen, and Bill Ryker.

Chairwoman Karen Bedics called the meeting of the Planning Commission to order at 7:02 PM and opened with the pledge of allegiance.

1. Business

a. None

2. Planning Commission Comments and Project Reports

a. Event Venues

- i. General discussion was to forward to BOS for their input before the PC moves forward with more time and energy.
- ii. General discussion amongst Township Supervisors present at PC meeting was with future changes of Township leadership that there still is interest.
- iii. B. Carson-More discussion is needed on the fire companies and Silver Creek. Topics still that need further discussion is amplified music, waste water, emergency service egress.
- iv. B. Whitesell- Brought up the Comprehensive plan and where that stands and how the event venues topics ties into the plan. The plan would provide a direction for the Township and the Planning Commission. We have to be careful to not be too restrictive for the non-profits.
 1. Supervisor Hopkins – said the Comprehensive plan should be done next year and is very broad but the event venue can be worked on now.
- v. B. Whitesell- thought the event venue project was for future venues, not existing. B. Carson said that it was for existing and future. D. Long said he that fire companies and churches were going to be except and it would only before future venues. D. Nicholson said we should reach out to Solicitor Scott MacNair if we enacted something now, could we enforce to current businesses or are they grandfathered?
- vi. B. Ryker brought up “recommended best practices” and certificate of insurance/liability.
- vii. D. Nicholson – clear definitions on what’s a normal function of that venue.
- viii. L. Gerhart – concerns about the number of events per year could limit someone’s fundraising capabilities.
- ix. B. Ryker – As a representative of a local venue, he was happy to be interviewed by Mr. Carson. He felt valued to provide input and have discussion.
- x. N. Zane – Brought up looking at the outside agencies’ requirements and the basic requirements of safety and enforcement to not burden the Township staff.
- xi. A. Matzura – Think of the small community centers that can’t afford some of the requirements.
- xii. Outcomes from discussion: We need how/if we can enforce on existing businesses/venues. The PC can move forward with regulations. Then we can request a joint meeting with BOS/PC along with MacNair. *Resolutions are best practices or an Ordinance is enforceable. *
- xiii. Questions for Scott MacNair:
 1. Dawn will email Scott and cc Karen the list of questions.

b. Comprehensive Plan Update

- i. B. Carson provided update. They met a week ago. The steering committee got the latest draft of the plan. There are 6 focus areas to be viewed through two “lenses”. Suggested implementations are in the draft 243-page plan with timeframes.
 - ii. Supervisor Hopkins said the draft plan was a complicated read. And there is a public hearing in February 2024.
 - iii. Supervisor Ryker said the Township ABC committee/boards need to monitor if we are meeting the matrix of the comprehensive plan.
 - c. Zoning / SALDO Omnibus Amendment suggestions
 - i. K. Bedics - Discussion on list update

3. Meeting Minutes

- a. Approval of September 6, 2023 minutes
 - i. Will table to January 2024 meeting.

4. Correspondence

- a. None.

5. Public Comment

- a. None.

6. Adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn made by Whitesell, seconded by Zane. Motion approved and meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM.