MINUTES OF MEETING OF
WASHINGTON COUNTY PLAN COMMISSION
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
Held November 4, 2019
Washington County Courthouse Conference Room

Regular meeting of the Washington County Plan Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members present were Mark Hartman, Danielle Walker, Todd Ewen, Deidre Miller, and Emily Rodman; absent were Ervin Day, Keeley Stingel, and Kevin Baird. Board of Zoning Appeals members present were Max Greene and Mark Hartman; absent were Darrell Tye and John Mishler. Also present was plan Director Travis Elliott.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Todd Ewen; Mark Hartman offered prayer.

Minutes of the October 7th meeting were reviewed. Upon motion by Todd Ewen, second by Emily Rodman, the minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

Mark distributed copies of articles taken from the newspaper from the past month highlighting Danielle Walker and Kevin Baird.

Mark posted on the overhead monitors photographs he had taken of over 200 signs from the major arteries in the county, those being Highways 56, 60, and 135. The signs were scrolled throughout the meeting to spur discussion regarding the sign ordinance.

Deidre asked Travis if he had fielded any questions regarding signage. Travis stated that he had not received notice of any issues, nor had any questions been raised.

Todd stated that the Commission should look at what we do not want in our sign ordinance, with public safety and welfare being our top priority.

Emily reminded the Commission that that the County has a 10 foot right of way on each side of the road. Any signs posted closer than that are subject to being destroyed by the County highway department if they are in the way during an emergency.

Danielle stated that the Commission should probably look at prohibited signs and make a decision as to what the Commission is and is not comfortable with. Also, if the public has any issues with the new sign ordinance, that they should come before the Plan Commission and state their concerns.

It was determined that the most important issues are billboard signage, set back safety, housing safety (signs in relation to how close to property), electrical lines, etc.

Emily stated that signage should be located 10 feet off of the County right-of-way.

Todd questioned whether the sign ordinance should be the same for agriculture, business, and residential.

Danielle stated the need for a good definition for signs overall.

Emily stated that in order simplify and condense the ordinance, all signs should be encompassed under one umbrella.

Todd stated that Travis should be considered into the equation, further stating that Travis' work load has likely doubled from that of 2018.

The Commission reviewed the proposed sign ordinance in order to raise further questions with K.K. regarding Indiana state sign regulations so that the new ordinance would coincide with state guidelines.

There being no additional business to come before the meeting, upon motion of Todd Ewen, second by Deirdre Miller, the Commission unanimously approved to close the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

The Board of Zoning Appeals was not called to order; no action taken.

Washington County Plan Commission by:

Mark Hartman, President

Danielle Walker, Vice President

Keeley Stingel, Secretary

Ervin Day

Todd Ewen

Kevin Baird

Deirdre Miller

Emily Rodman

Board of Zoning and Appeals by:

Max Greene, President

Mark Hartman

Darrell Tye

John Mishler

WCPC/BZA Attorney:

John W. Mead