

Porter Township
Planning Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2021

Start Time : Meeting began at 7:00 pm.

Members Present: Doug Noble, Jr., Heather Smith, Andrew Nesbitt, David Kindt, Bob Angle, Tonya Blanchard, John Miller.

Members Absent: Tim Seppala, Steve Cornish

Zoning Administrator : Rich McGrew, not present.

Additions to Agenda :

Approval of Agenda : Bob Angle approves, Andy Nesbitt seconds, all in favor, agenda approved as written.

Approval of Minutes : Heather Smith motions to approve the September Regular Meeting Minutes as written, John Miller seconds. September Regular Meeting Minutes approved as written.

Correspondence : None received.

Citizens Comments : Devin Loker, Attorney for Dekoncels was here in support of the marijuana adult use ordinance. Spoke about state revenue from marihuana. Patricia Cover, and Priscilla Rogers from Gravel Lake were here in curiosity of the short term rental ordinance.

Board Report : Andy Nesbitt, board liaison, indicated that the main topic at the last board meeting was the board was looking for a decision from the planning commission on the adult use use marijuana ordinance.

Old Business :

A. Old business discussed.

There was discussion regarding the adult use marijuana ordinance. The board would like grow to remain indoors. Cannot use the same language for medical and adult use marijuana ordinance, they must be two separate ordinances. Mr. Nesbitt sees them as almost a mirror image in the sense that there are many parallels. We are mostly sending our approval either yes or no and the number in the categories.

Many townships have learned that there can be too many licenses and you can receive a lot of citizen feedback that is mostly negative - per Mr. Schuitmaker, township attorney.

We need to consider indoor, indoor/outdoor, or outdoor. Mr. Noble has concerns about setting numbers too high and infrastructure would be strained. Could the township be able to have adequate response. Arlington township had set it at 100 licenses and looking back should have set it much lower. There was a lot of negative citizen feedback.

The Planning commission discussed the number of allowable licenses and there was a lot of conversation about outdoor facilities. One of the restrictions discussed was also being in the commercial zones.

A question was how can the ordinance maintain proper enforcement for smell.

There is discussion on tying the medical licenses to the recreational license.

If we set the number low, it is easier to raise the number rather than decrease.

There was discussion about limiting the number of locations. Andy Nesbitt recommends to Allow 10-15 locations, most of the members disagreed and said that was too much. PC agreed to 10 locations for indoor grow facilities(only) regardless of class(A,B, C).

The planning commission agreed to not do anything with the micro business format or model that is in current legislation.

Heather Smith makes the motion to set the number of adult use retail establishments centers to two licenses with the stipulation that in order to purchase the adult use license you must also have purchased the medical license. The number of indoor grow facility locations regardless of class set to 10. The number of transport, processing, and safety each set to 5. No outdoor grow locations allowed. The adult use ordinance would be a mirror image of the medical ordinance template wherever possible. A preference on permits given to township residents and local township businesses. Bob Angle seconds. Roll call vote : 7 yes, 0 no. Motion is unanimous.

New Business :

A. Solar Farms are on the horizon.

Zoning Administrator report: No report, not present.

ZBOA Report : Bob Angle, present, no report.

Adjournment : Andy Nesbitt motions to adjourn, John Miller seconds, meeting adjourned at 8:20.

Next Meeting: November 3, 2021