

Hocking County Zoning Commission Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2024

Members present:

Sandra Ogle, Hocking County Commissioner
Audie Wykle
John Fuller
Stacey Howe
Steve Buckley
Bruce Ebert

- Mr. Wykle stated that Mr. Beiter is absent from the meeting due to a funeral, and Mr. Kilbarger had another meeting out of town. Mr. Wykle requested a motion to excuse them both from the meeting. Mr. Fuller made the motion, Ms. Ogle second. All vote in favor, motion passes.
- Mr. Wykle emailed the minutes from the November 2023 meeting, and provided hard copies to the group. He requested a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Howe made the motion, Mr. Buckley second. All vote in favor, motion passes.
- Mr. Wykle explained that a list is being compiled for questions/ideas and interest that the community may have as the proposition goes out. Ms. Howe put together a preliminary list and handed them out at the November meeting. Eventually, the goal is to create a survey and a social media presence to let the public know more of what the zoning commission is doing.
- Ms. Howe explained that the wording of the questions will be worded in a way so that it does not seem like a group is being targeted. Mr. Wykle stated that the questions should not be designed so that it gives a leading answer, and that legitimate questions are being asked. The goal is for pure feedback from people.
- Ms. Howe explained that the first question on the survey monkey will be “are you a resident of Hocking County?” because anyone could take a survey through social media, and we do care if they are a resident of Hocking County. The next question to demonstrate that the person lives in Hocking County could be to ask what area of the county do they live in or what voting precinct/township. Ms. Howe suggested that there be a workgroup session to finalize the details. The workgroup session will be open to the public.
- Finalized surveys will be available through online, social media, and can be printed out and have available at the commissioner’s office, the Planning Commission, possibly the library.
- **Workgroup session scheduled for: February 13, 2024 @ 5:30 PM at the Planning Commission office conference room.**
- Mr. Wykle checked into creating a zoning commission website or Facebook page, and IT is willing to help, but need to know information on the structure of it. The consensus is that a website would be easier to monitor. Mr. Wykle can help monitor the website.
- The group discussed meeting more often or regularly, even though a consultant is not selected yet, to have an “open house” or public input meeting at possibly the senior center. It would be held in the evening so more people could attend.

Mr. Wykle will check on availability of dates and will email the zoning commission group. Mr. Gerstner also suggested the Logan Theatre as a venue for the open house. Looking at the last week of February.

- Mr. Wykle met with 2 people from Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission last week, and is waiting on an RFP or RFQ from them. There is a clerical charge, even using the MORPC. Ms. Ogle recommended that any MOU received is ran through the legal department, such as the county Prosecutor.
- The tourism association utilized a consultant to come up with a survey for how tourism is affecting Hocking County. Mr. Wykle explained that the final report that the consultant delivers to the tourism association would be beneficial to see. The tourism association meets the 3rd Monday each month. Some meetings are in person, some are over Zoom.

Public Comment

- Mr. Gerstner stated that he is happy to see things moving forward at a faster pace, and that multiple things need to be done at once instead of doing one thing at a time.
- Ms. Riggs stated that township trustees should also be included, even though it will be a county-wide zoning ordinance that is being proposed.
- Mr. Fuller made motion to adjourn, second by Ms. Ogle.