

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES 5/7/2024

Circleville City Strategic Planning Committee convened in City Council Chambers, 127 South Court St, Circleville, OH on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 6:30 pm. Members present: Chair Sheri Theis, Committee Members: Zach Brooks and John Moats, Clerk Melissa Burns. Invited guests present: Bryan Shonkwiler. Other guests present: Mayor Michelle Blanton, Council Members Tom Duvall, Tom Klitzka, Jeff Hallinin, and Council President Barry Keller.

Theis called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Moats motioned to approve the Strategic Planning minutes from April 9, 2024. Seconded by Brooks. Motion carried.

Old Business:

1. Arbor Day Celebration

Discussion: The Tree commission sponsored an Arbor Day Celebration on April 26, 2024. Brenda Short delivered a proclamation signed by the Mayor, recognizing April 26, 2024, as Arbor Day. The Tree Commission and Circleville High School FFA students planted approximately 40 trees at Ted Lewis Park and along Brokaw Avenue.

New Business:

2. Hope House-Bryan Shonkwiler

Discussion: Mr. Shonkwiler represents Hope House of Pickaway County. Hope House is a 501c3 and was established in late 2018. The organization started when a group of churches all came together to try and solve the homeless problem. It was determined that the biggest gap for homelessness was for men who are not military. The non-military guys were falling through the cracks with no resources. There are currently 9 active members on their board. The shelter first opened January 2019, in the old Jims Pay & Save building. The property has since been sold and the new owners no longer want to renew the lease. They're now receiving temporary help from the Presbyterian Church, through a Temporary Use Permit issued by the BZA. They moved into that location on March 2, 2024, and have been working with ZI on trying to find possible permanent housing locations. The City's Zoning map is limited in the space available for a men's shelter and most spaces are already occupied. He would like the City's help in finding a place where a shelter would be welcomed.

Theis asked how many men they are serving? Mr. Shonkwiler responded they can only house 10 guest currently. The Shelter was at max capacity but here lately they have been closer to 6-7 men. Mr. Shonkwiler is considering the place on Morris Road that was suggested to him. He would like the City to consider leasing the property and rezoning it for this purpose but is open to all suggestions.

Moats asked where on Morris Road exactly they are looking and what type of facility do they want to build size-wise? Mr. Shonkwiler stated the location they are looking at is behind Ace Hardware and they would like to build a 1-2,000sq ft open facility. They would like a small office space for the Director, showers, place for beds, laundry, and restrooms.

Theis clarified this is the vacant lot behind Snap Fitness and is City owned property. Theis stated after the guest leave the shelter they typically hang out at the library. Mr. Shonkwiler said that location is conveniently located around the resources the men would need or use.

Duvall asked about expansion and if that space would work? Mr. Shonkwiler stated if they can build a 2,000 sq ft. shelter then it would be sufficient to house the max 16 guests allowed per the zoning code.

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3. Review of City-Owned Properties

Discussion: The ZI put together a list of properties that are owned by the City. This list was sent out to all Council members for review.

Brooks motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 pm. Moats seconded. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by: Melissa Burns, Clerk.