Hocking County Zoning Commission Meeting Minutes

February 29, 2024

Members present:

Sandra Ogle, Hocking County Commissioner

Audie Wykle

Stacey Howe

Steve Buckley

Bruce Ebert

Rob Beiter

**Minutes**

* Members absent: Jim Kilbarger; John Fuller. Mr. Wykle asked for a motion to excuse those two members. **Mr. Beiter made the motion, Mr. Ebert second. All in favor. Motion passes.**
* Mr. Wykle asked if there are any corrections needed for the January minutes. No additions or changes needed. Mr. Wykle asked for a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. **Ms. Howe made the motion, Mr. Buckley second. All in favor-motion carries**.
* First item on the agenda: Mr. Wykle had sent out to the group the RFP from MORPC to review. What the goal for this meeting is to make a recommendation on that RFP, either as it is presented or with changes. Mr. Buckley asked where the $50,000 is coming from. Mr. Wykle explained that the county commissioners have already set that aside. Mr. Buckley then asked why is 60% of the $50,000 going to community meetings. Mr. Wykle explained that the 60% of the time spent by the consultant (and we don’t know what the consultant is going to charge) meeting with the public. Mr. Wykle explained that the only money would be going out is for the time of the consultant. Mr. Buckley asked if the community meetings would be held at township buildings because he feels those would be the best venue for the meetings. Ideal locations would be places that wouldn’t charge a fee, that has a good amount of parking available.
* Mr. Wykle stated that he would like to move forward with MORPC to distribute this request for proposal among all consultants that they know of who would have an interest in working with Hocking County. MORPC is going to help the commission interview and pick a consultant.
* Ms. Howe had a question regarding the number of visitors that was listed in the RFP page 4-the total number was not accurate. Mr. Wykle explained that the main part of the agreement is for the consultant to understand that the zoning ordinance that is the end result is one that is flexible and tailored to the townships and county needs and that is easy to understand. Ms. Ogle stated that it needs to be simple that everyone can understand, especially older generations.
* **Ms. Howe made a motion** for Mr. Wykle to get back with MORPC and keep moving forward, that the RFP looks good and the group approves. **Mr. Buckley 2nd the motion**. Mr. Wykle asked Ms. Ogle if both documents need to go the Prosecutor. She explained that anytime they (the Commissioners) have a memorandum of understanding they send it to the prosecutor. Mr. Wykle asked if he needs to fill out a request or come to a commissioner meeting for this. Ms. Ogle said it can be put in the “to do” folder and from there, the Commissioners can handle it. It has been discussed in the commissioners meeting before. **All vote in favor-motion carries.**
* Work session on the 13th was very successful-thank you Ms. Howe.
* From that work session, there were some suggestions submitted. The survey is complete. There are other companies that surveys can completed on, but Survey Monkey is what Ms. Howe is familiar with. There is a monthly fee in order to receive feedback from the surveys, ~$25 a month. The link to the survey can be sent via social media, and can also be posted to the website once the website is done.
* Mr. Wykle asked Ms. Howe if she feels that that there are enough information/suggestions provided, and she said there is. Ms. Howe has added a few questions from community feedback. Mr. Wykle asked if Ms. Howe could send out the “cleaned up” list to review. He is going to talk to the IT guys and what they recommend to set up the survey. The group agrees that it is important to get the website up and established that the public can be referred to.
* The 3rd item on the agenda is to establish a mission statement to put on the website. Ms. Ogle stated that the mission statement does not need to be long-short, sweet and to the point. The group agreed. Mr. Buckley came up with “our mission is to advance policies that encourage growth, safety, and preservation of Hocking County.” Mr. Wykle stated let’s start with that, let the group review and think on it.
* Mr. Wykle stated that he would like to set up a work session for March. The last time they met was a Tuesday at 5:30 PM. The group decided to meet **March 7, 2024 @ 5:30 PM.** Mr. Wykle said that he will have to look for a different location to hold the meeting, because of early voting hours. He will check and let the group know.
* Mr. Wykle explained that in the upcoming work sessions he would like to firm up a timeline for reviewing consultants. The work sessions are not public meetings per se but the public is invited to attend and can speak if there is time. Comments and questions are encouraged as time allows.

**Public Comment**

* Larry Gerstner attended the meeting in the gallery. He said he is encouraged that things are moving forward and that input is being gathered so that once a company is chosen, they will be able to start working with the groundwork already being laid. Mr. Wykle agreed, and said the goal is for the consultant to begin and “hit the ground running”.

**Upcoming Meetings**

* March work session: March 7, 2024 @ 5:30 PM. Location TBD
* Next regular meeting: March 28, 2024 @ 2:00 PM. Location: commissioners meeting room.
* April work session: April 9, 2024 @ 5:30 PM.
* April regular meeting: April 25, 2024 @ 2:00 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Hannah Montgomery