Meeting Minutes

May 30, 2024

Members present:

Audie Wykle

John Fuller

Bruce Ebert

Rob Beiter

Stacey Howe

Steve Buckley

Sandy Ogle Hocking County Commissioner

**Minutes**

* Mr. Wykle asked for a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Mr. Buckley made the motion, Ms. Howe second. All in favor-motion passes.
* Mr. Wykle asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Fuller made the motion, second by Mr. Beiter. All in favor-motion passes.
* Mr. Wykle provided an update on the zoning survey. The IT department is working on creating a QR code that will link directly to the survey. So far there have been approximately 240 responses. A link to the survey is available on the Hocking County Regional Planning website. 39% of the respondents are Hocking County residents. 67.7% of respondents feel that zoning would have a positive effect. 62.4% said that zoning should be attempt to regulate toward businesses. 43.4% of respondents want to see an increase in safety forces to assist with tourism. 62.3% of respondents do not want Hocking County to turn into another Gatlinburg. 92.8% of respondents said yes to the county protecting the surrounding parks. Mr. Wykle will email the group the verbatim responses from the survey so they can see how the individuals responded and what they put in the comment section.
* Ms. Ogle asked how can residents answer the survey who do not have internet. Mr. Wykle stated that paper copies will be made available, and can be out for the public at his office, at the courthouse, etc. Ms. Ogle suggested having flyers or other paperwork to pass out at the county fair, since a large number of residents attend the fair. The survey is an important tool for moving forward with writing a code, so that residents have a say. Ms. Ogle asked that the paper surveys be printed on a color paper instead of white, at the very least for the seniors so that it can be easily recognized.
* Ms. Howe asked a member of the gallery from the paper if the QR code could be placed in the paper. He said he would ask his editor.
* Mr. Wykle explained that through the help of MORPC, requests for proposals were sent out. 3 companies expressed some interest in the project, but only 1 responded. The company that has responded so far is American Structure Point. The benefit to this is that it is a company that Hocking County is familiar with. They are an established company that has a lot of resources, and they have come in at our budget amount. Mr. Wykle hoped that they would be at the meeting today, but they were in another county for an advertised public hearing, so they could not change around the time to come to the meeting.
* On June 5 at 3:00 PM in the Commissioners meeting room, they are going to have a presentation for the group. MORPC will also be in attendance for their presentation.
* The goal is to have the written/complete zoning code on the ballot in the fall 2025 for general election.
* Mr. Wykle asked for a motion to excuse Mr. Kilbarger from the meeting. Mr. Fuller made the motion, Mr. Beiter second. All in favor-motion carried.
* Mr. Wykle stated that he attended both presentations of the Tourism Association’s destination stewardship plan. They are not finished yet. They had handouts the first day, and he isn’t sure how many that they had to share but he brought two to the meeting. One is a general summary of the survey, the second gets into more detail about how the information was gathered. They had a stewardship meeting and a general public meeting. Mr. Wykle asked Mr. Gerstner in the gallery if he had an idea on when the final report would be given. Mr. Gerstner stated that he did not think there was a date set. Mr. Wykle stated that he felt that they are recognizing the effect on quality of life that tourism is having on Hocking County, so they are understanding the strains on infrastructure, home sales, real estate values. They (tourism association) want to find solutions to these problems so that the 2 can co-exist since tourism is the number 1 industry in Hocking County right now.
* Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Fuller, second by Mr. Ebert. All in favor-motion carried.

**Upcoming Meetings**

* June 5, 2024 @ 3:00 PM-American Structure Point presentation

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Hannah Montgomery, BSH, REHS*