

MEETING MINUTES
PLANNING COMMISSION & CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION
CITY OF PIQUA, OHIO
6:00 P.M. – TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2020

LOCATION

The June 17, 2020 joint City Commission and Planning Commission meeting was conducted using a video conferencing application called Zoom.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Oda, Joe Wilson, Gary Koenig

CITY COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Kris Lee, Thomas Fogt, Kazy Hinds, Chris Grissom

MEETING MINUTES

At 6:00 PM Kyrsten French, City Planner, called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance. Kyrsten outlined the purpose for the discussion and noted that it was brought forward by Commissioner Thomas Fogt.

Thomas Fogt thanked everyone in attendance and noted that many local veterans have shown interest in the medical marijuana subject.

Sharon Maerten-Moore and Jesse Wimberly, State Representatives, introduced themselves and provided a timeline of how the medical use of marijuana became legalized in Ohio. It was explained that there are three levels of state regulation: Pharmacy Board, Department of Commerce as well as the Medical Board. 60 licenses are allowed in the state throughout all districts. There are 31 districts. Piqua falls into southwest district 3, which covers Miami, Shelby and Logan County. This district authorizes 2 total licenses. In the first round of review, no applications within the area were received.

Jesse Wimberly explained that his role is in compliance and enforcement. He noted that dispensaries are similar to pharmacies. Medical marijuana is regulated as a schedule 2 drug in Ohio because it is a controlled substance. He went on to explain that in the state of Ohio, you cannot enter a dispensary unless you are a patient or a care giver. Most facilities have a "man trap" which is a lobby entrance that screens those who wish to go inside. All products are cultivated and tested in the state. It was explained that marijuana was separated from a traditional pharmacy because it is federally a schedule 1 drug which allows for more monitoring and regulation.

The State Representatives noted that out of the 60 licenses authorized in the state, 56 were awarded and 51 are currently in operation. Provisional licenses are given to new locations and are inspected before they are allowed to open. If an application is denied, a completely new application must be reviewed by the board.

Commission members voiced that when this subject was previously discussed, there wasn't enough information available to make a decision on allowing dispensaries in the

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city. Commission members asked the state representatives if there are any resources showing if dispensaries cause positive or negative effects in communities.

The State Representatives noted that dispensaries are required to report crime to the authorities and this kind of statistic can be found by contacting other communities. It was also discussed that if a patient commits a criminal act, administrative action will also be taken against their license which limits criminal activity. Employees of medical dispensaries are educated and trained to take proper action.

It was further deliberated that if the city commission votes to allow dispensaries, zoning would determine the location. Currently the zoning code section 124.029 prohibits the dispensary use of a building. State regulations require that a dispensary be 500 feet away from schools, places of worship and drug rehabilitation centers.

Dr. Burkhardt discussed the lack of statistics of medical marijuana health benefits and studies, but noted that he believes there are benefits for patients and that more testing is necessary. He noted the most frequent types of patient conditions that authorize the recommendation of a medical card. There are currently around 590 physicians in the state that are authorized to recommend medical marijuana. There are very few physicians nearby who are authorized to recommend medical marijuana. Some practices frown upon physicians recommending a medical marijuana card to their patients.

The State Representatives noted that the price of marijuana in dispensaries is typically around \$30-50 for a two day supply. A 90 day supply is the maximum amount allowed, according to the Ohio Revised Code and is strictly monitored. All dispensaries in the state have access to patient's purchase information.

It was also discussed that there is a stigma on the use of marijuana and many physicians have chosen to wait on recommending a medical card until further information has become available. They were unaware of any health insurance company that currently covers marijuana prescriptions; however, it was noted that veterans do receive a discount.

The Ohio medical marijuana card is only valid in Ohio and reciprocating states. Michigan is not a reciprocating state as they allow recreational use of marijuana. The boards are working on additional medical reciprocity.

Kyrsten French, shared her screen to demonstrate a visual of other Ohio medical marijuana dispensaries. She noted that she has researched other zoning codes and several cities make no mention of dispensaries and others have used state regulatory language as well as adding additional language to regulate spacing or other aspects of dispensaries. The State Representatives noted that medical advertisement and marketing is taken seriously and reviewed as such.

The commissioners discussed that they will be reaching out to other municipalities that have medical marijuana dispensaries to discuss any change in crime rates as well as

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other questions citizens have regarding the subject. Further public discussion will be planned and state representatives may be available to attend as well.

The State Representatives shared that the public can find additional information at <https://www.medicalmarijuana.ohio.gov/>.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:09 P.M.

Attending the meeting to prepare the meeting minutes was Bethany Harp, City of Piqua Development Department. Comments requesting corrections, additions or deletions to the content of this record should be directed to Ms. Harp at bharp@piquaoh.org.