

## **MARSHVILLE PLANNING BOARD**

### **February 12, 2018 Minutes**

**Board Members Present:** Chairwoman Susan Drake, Fred Burton, Frances Griffin, Sue Helms, Rusty Johnson, and Brian Weber.

**Others present:** Richard Smith (Planning Advisor), Yvonne Janssen (Code Enforcement Officer), and Emily McCallum (Parks and Recreation Director) and Amy Griffin (Planning Board Secretary).

**Absent:** Vice Chairman Mark Traywick.

Chairwoman Drake called the meeting to order. Mr. Weber provided invocation and everyone recited the Pledge.

Mr. Smith clarified a comment regarding banner signs. They are allowed on a temporary basis with a permit. The limitations are they are allowed for 21 days, four times a year. Mr. Burton made a motion to approve the December 11<sup>th</sup> Planning Board Minutes with the correction, Mr. Weber seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously (Mr. Johnson arrived late and was not present at the time of the motion).

#### **Emily McCallum, Parks and Recreation Director**

Mrs. McCallum announced that park equipment was coming. She said Council had approved for her to move forward with purchasing equipment and that once it was ordered, it should be a five week turnaround. She hopes once people come back to the park to use the playground equipment, she can determine how better to use the land. The town has budgeted \$25,000 for playground equipment and an anonymous donor has agreed to match dollar for dollar what is spent. Mr. Weber asked what company we were using and Mrs. McCallum said she decided to use Peggs Recreation in Mooresville who is a vendor for Little Tykes Commercial. Mr. Weber then asked what type of equipment would be used. Mrs. McCallum explained there were two sets - a 2 to 5 age group section and a 5 to 12 section with everything being commercial grade. Mr. Weber asked Mrs. McCallum what her plans for the park were. She stated first she wants to get it back to what it was before building on that. She believes there will be more traffic flow because the middle school will be having all their softball and baseball games at the park this year. She then wants to create events so people can see what the town has to offer.

Mr. Weber asked if the town had the equipment to keep the fields maintained and Mrs. McCallum said they did - they have a contract with mowers to keep grass maintained and as far the infields, Mrs. McCallum said she has a degree in recreation from Catawba College and played college softball so she is very familiar with field maintenance. Mr. Weber asked what the plans were for the new part that had been purchased. Mrs. McCallum stated there were a lot of grants out there that would match dollar for dollar for municipalities and that was next on her agenda. Mr. Weber asked if she was willing to do any tournaments to which she replied yes. She believed that would be a great revenue resource. Mr. Smith explained that the way things work is Mrs. McCallum has to take her ideas and needs to Mr. Scott Howard, the Town Manager, and he will incorporate it with the budget and bring it before the Town Council for them to decide what they want to see this year, and next year, and so forth.

Chairwoman Drake asked what Mrs. McCallum's long term plans were for the town. Mrs. McCallum said tournaments are always a great resource and with Anson Field of Dreams so close, they could host bigger tournaments and use both the Field of Dreams and Marshville fields. She would like to build a recreation center for banquets, tournaments, and exercise

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classes. She tries to have a heavy media presence (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and the Town's website) to advertise events but she still has people who say they aren't finding out about events. Mrs. Drake asked if she has worked with Wingate and Mrs. McCallum said she would love to have an intern or several from their recreational department.

#### **Text Amendment**

Mrs. Griffin said she attended the last council meeting and council members asked her to inform the Planning Board that they would like a digital sign for Marshville. A few had said to replace the sign in front of Town Hall on Highway 74 while others said they would like it at the Community Center. Mrs. Drake said the Town Council had brought the digital sign back up at the last council meeting. They have not been given any formal direction. Mr. Smith said he has informed Mr. Howard that Town Hall would need to be rezoned to put up a digital sign but was unsure if it had been discussed with Council. Mrs. Drake said they were also considering moving Town Hall to the Community Center, but that rests on if the ABC Board approves the current Town Hall building becoming an ABC store. Mrs. Drake said she hates to see us lose the Community Center because she is unsure where other activities could be held.

At the November meeting, Planning Board discussed possibly amending the MDO in order to permit digitally changing signs in the Civic (CIV) Zoning District. Furthermore, the Planning Board discussed limiting these types of signs to certain hours and to a certain maximum brightness. At the December meeting, the Planning Board discussed permitting the use in the CIV District with the issuance of a conditional use permit. The Board directed staff to research the matter further in order to gather possible conditions for the Board to consider.

After much discussion from both Planning Board members and staff, the following was decided for digital signs as a conditional use permit with conditions for three districts only - Civic Zoning (CIV), US 74 Commercial (C74), and Transitional Mixed Use (TMU):

1) Brightness of sign to be reduced from sunset to sunrise for all locations, and no illumination between the hours of 9pm-6am in all locations except those fronting on US Highway 74. Maximum brightness levels for electronic changeable copy signs shall not exceed 5,000 nits during daylight hours and shall not exceed 500 nits between dusk and dawn, as measured from the sign face.

(2) Time between display changes shall be set to intervals of no less than eight seconds.

(3) No scrolling, blinking, rotating, or use of "scintillating" lights or/lights of different intensities.

(4) Prior to the issuance of a sign permit, the applicant shall provide a written certification from the sign manufacturer that the light intensity has been factory pre-set not to exceed 5,000 nits. All electronic changeable copy signs shall have a light sensing device that will adjust the brightness in real-time as ambient light conditions change, so that the sign does not exceed the maximum brightness levels allowed by this section.

(5) Signs shall not be located within 200 feet of a principal residential structure.

(6) The area of an electronic changeable copy sign may not exceed 50% of the permitted area of a freestanding sign, and shall be counted toward the maximum allowable signage.

(7) No more than one electronic changeable copy sign shall be permitted per parcel and/or business or organization.

(8) Glare or reflection of sign cannot interfere with traffic safety.

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Mr. Johnson made the motion to accept these conditions for digital signs, Mr. Burton seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

Chairwoman Drake then said council had asked Ms. Griffin if the Town were to get a sign, where it could be put. Mr. Smith said based on these recommend changes a digital sign could only be put at the Community Center because Town Hall was zoned as Main Street and not Civic Use but it would be easy to change it.

#### **Other Business / comments -**

Mr. Smith made a quick clarification that the Table of Use Chart shows that signs are allowed across the board but are permitted as an accessory use. Ms. Helms wanted to be clear about banner flags - that they could get another permit to put them up for a certain amount of time. Mr. Smith replied they have to get a permit to put them up and are temporary.

Chairwoman Drake asked if there was any other business. Mr. Johnson made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Burton seconded, and it was approved unanimously.