

Village of Clarksville  
Planning Commission  
2014 Annual Report

January

- Discussed feasibility of enacting a Tree Ordinance.
- Reviewed 2013 Annual Planning Commission Report.
- Reviewed 2014 Annual Planning Work Program.
- Planning Commission Members nominated and appointed Planning Commission Officers for 2014:
  - Robert Blocher as Chairperson
  - Lu Baxter as Vice Chair
  - Jordan Burnie as Secretary

February

- Discussed feasibility of enacting a Tree Ordinance. Implementing a tree planting and removal grant program was also discussed.

March

- Tree Study/Grant Program recommendation letter was drafted. The letter outlined Planning Commission's recommendation to not pursue a Tree Ordinance, but to instead implement a Tree Grant Program. Letter was presented to Council.

April

- Tree Study/Grant Program recommendation letter was tabled by Council at last meeting.
- Village welcome sign replacement was discussed.

May

- The Tree Study/Ordinances/Grant Program has still not seen action by the Village Council. Planning Commission still stands by original recommendation to create a Tree Grant program to replace the current program.
- Much discussion was had regarding the Zoning Ordinance and enforcement throughout the Village. Some members spoke out against the ordinance, while others were in favor of keeping it, but making modifications as issues arise.
- Planning Commission reviewed the new sidewalk construction proposal from Fleis and Vandenbrink. Planning Commission recommends using them for engineering, but bidding out the actual project to area contractors.

June

- Planning Commission analyzed the benefits and drawbacks of the current tree program, a tree ordinance, and a tree grant program. After analysis Planning Commission still stands by original recommendation to create a Tree Grant program to replace the current program. A detailed report will be submitted to Village Council for their next meeting.
- Planning Commission recommended the Village take a reactive approach rather than a proactive one when dealing with the Zoning Ordinance. The current Zoning Ordinance does have flaws due the nature of it being a boiler plate ordinance not specifically tailored to Clarksville. However, the Planning Commission lacks the expertise to go through each section and make revisions. It would be detrimental to the Village if key components to the Zoning Ordinance

were removed simply due to a non-understanding or belief that they are not needed. This is especially true with sections that are not encountered very often, such as Planned Unit Developments.

- Worked on an amendment in regards to the residential dog limitations. Following this amendment, Planning Commission recommended the codification of the Zoning Ordinance as soon as possible. This will create a single, easy to read document that can be made available online.

#### July

- Planning Commission discussed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance dog and cat requirements. An amendment has been suggested that will include the following:
  - Remove restriction on cat ownership
  - Limit dogs to 3 per household in all zoning districts
  - Model some of the requirements based on the City of Lowell dog ordinance
  - Allow two levels of Special Use Permits for owning more than 3 dogs. The two levels would be 4-6 dogs and 7+ dogs.

#### August

- Council decided to pursue a tree grant program in addition to the current program beginning next year. A tree grant program will be developed by Planning Commission.
- Jordan provided a draft ordinance for an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance regarding dogs. Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at the September 18 Planning Commission meeting.

#### September

- A public hearing was held regarding an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance pertaining to the keeping of household pets.
- Kerry McMillen resigned from the Planning Commission.
- Recommended Council approve the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment as written with the addition of excluding the A1 Zoning District from parts A and B.
- Zoning Ordinance codification draft was provided by ALP.
- Sidewalk repair in town was approved.
- New village welcome signs was installed

#### October

- Council approved the Dog Ordinance amendment
- Robert would like to see Planning Commission membership extend to more members. Robert and Jordan would also like to have the Planning Commission consist of all Village citizens, at which point they would step down happily. However, for the time being they deeply care about Clarksville and will serve as Planning Commissioners until that goal is realized.
- Planning Commission reviewed the draft Zoning Codification provided by ALP.
- Planning Commission reviewed the recommendations and made appropriate corrections.

#### November

- New members were appointed - Rick Culp, Nicole Nordhof, Brian Reser.
- Lu Baxter resigned.
- Nicole Nordhof appointed as vice chairperson.

- Planning Commission discussed items within the Master Plan, specifically Goals & Actions. Progress made was discussed as well as goals for the coming years.

#### December

- Jami Manszewski, owner Rock It Salon, would like to have more cooperation between the businesses and the Village government. She has been actively involved in the past couple of Planning Commission meetings.
- Village and Township are sharing costs for a community ice skating rink that will be located at the Campbell Township Park.
- Village Facebook page has been created and is maintained by Village President, Amy Byers.
- The Youth Athletic Club is now up and running, and will be held on the 2nd and 4th Fridays 6:30-8pm for area kids ages 8 to 15. The club will give kids the opportunity to learn new games and sports while being able to stay close to home. This has been coordinated by Amy Byers with no cost to the taxpayers. Jordan will add this to the Village website.
- Day in the Park was discussed. Planning Commission would like to keep the event going, but also inject new ideas. Suggestions include a 5k walk/run or changing the date. Commission suggested a committee be formed to plan this next year's event.
- Parking issues downtown were discussed. Suggestions were to add angle parking to downtown and possible remove the parking lot in favor of a park.

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Planning Commission Chair – Robert Blocher

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Planning Commission Secretary – Jordan Burnie