

**City of Columbus
Regular Planning Commission Meeting
June 1, 2016**

The June 1, 2016 regular meeting of the Planning Commission for the City of Columbus was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Garth Sternberg at the City Hall. Present were Commission members: James Watson, Pam Wolowski, Jesse Preiner, and Jody Krebs; City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko, and Recording Secretary Karen Boland.

Also in attendance were City Council members Denny Peterson (to 8:35) and Bill Krebs (to 7:35), and Pat Preiner.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by Krebs to approve the Agenda as presented. Second by Watson. Votes as follows: Watson – aye, Wolowski – abstain, Preiner – aye, Krebs – aye, Sternberg – aye. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL – JOINT PLANNING COMMISSION/CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES OF MAY 18, 2016**

Motion by Preiner to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2016 joint Planning Commission meeting as written. Second by Krebs. Votes as follows: Watson – aye, Wolowski – abstain, Preiner – aye, Krebs – aye, Sternberg – aye. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING – ZONING CODE AMENDMENTS – CHAPTERS 7A & 9 RE:
EXCAVATION, EXTRACTION, AND MINING (PC-16-113)**

At this time a public hearing was held to receive testimony regarding consideration of revisions to Chapters 7A and 9 of the City Code related to excavation, extraction, and mining. Separate minutes are prepared.

**ZONING CODE AMENDMENTS – CHAPTERS 7A & 9 RE: EXCAVATION,
EXTRACTION, AND MINING DISCUSSION**

PC members went through a worksheet from the Assistant City Attorney, Jake Steen, to guide them as to what policy decisions need to be considered in amending the Code regarding excavation, extraction and mining. He will then use the PC's answers to draft possible Code amendments.

PC members agreed that they would like to see the City continue to permit strictly commercial mining and extraction uses.

PC members agreed that the City should allow extraction and mining of sand, dirt, and timber.

Chapter 9 currently states that the removal, mining, or filling of earthly deposits is deemed to be an Interim Use in all zoning districts. There was discussion of important considerations in issuing a permit and identifying conditions for an IUP. There was agreement that it would not be generally beneficial to the City for upland to be converted to wetland. The City Administrator recommends a drainage plan be in place both before and after excavation work is done. Requiring a surveyor line was also discussed. Ditch filling by residents, and road deterioration were discussed as common problems.

Three types of excavation were identified as possibilities in RR districts:

- 1) A homeowner moving dirt on their own property.
- 2) A homeowner hauling dirt off of their property.
- 3) Commercial excavation for profit.

PC members agreed that in the cases of #1 or #2 above, if the amount of materials being moved is less than 100 cubic yards of earthly deposits, no permit or City action should be required.

PC members also agreed the City Administrator, with the assistance of the City Engineer, should have the authority to issue an Administrative Permit in the cases of #1 or #2 above if the amount of materials being moved is between 100 cubic yards and 1000 cubic yards. This permit would have a duration of one season.

PC members identified the following as points of concern where conditions should be considered for restricting excavation, extraction, and mining:

- The end result must be that land is kept at a buildable elevation.
- A drainage plan must be approved.
- For commercial operations - #3 above – hauling must be done on roads built to accommodate at least 9 tons.
- Commercial excavation for profit in the RR district will not be allowed in high density neighborhoods

These ideas by the PC will be passed along to Steen. PC members also suggested he look at the recommendations in the current permit issued to Forest Lake Contracting for John's Black Dirt.

PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

There was no topic raised for discussion for Open Forum.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mursko said there will be a PC meeting on June 15th with no scheduled public hearings. The PC can continue discussion of excavation, and begin looking at policy regarding keeping chickens. There will be one PC meeting in July. Two applications are likely to be heard at that meeting.

Mursko reported that the Holiday station was robbed this week. She also reported there is talk of a special legislative session. In the transportation bill, the 97 bridge project is slated for \$22 million total. It is included in the bonding bill both under cash and also under trunk highway funds. Residents are encouraged to call the governor in support of a special session.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS' REPORT

Nothing to report.

ATTENDANCE - NEXT CC MEETING

Preiner is scheduled to attend the City Council meeting on June 8, 2016.

Motion by Krebs to adjourn. Second by Watson. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Karen Boland, Recording Secretary