

Village of Clarksville  
Planning Commission Minutes  
September 18, 2014

A regular monthly meeting of the Clarksville Planning Commission was held on September 18, 2014, at the Clarksville Village Hall. Chair Robert Blocher called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Planning Commissioners present - Chairperson Robert Blocher, Jordan Burnie, Ex Officio Robbie Mutschler, and Kerry McMillen. Absent - Vice Chair Lu Baxter.

No public comment for non-agenda items.

The minutes of the August 21, 2014 meeting were read and approved.

A public hearing was held regarding an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance pertaining to the keeping of household pets. Jordan Burnie read the existing ordinance, the proposed amendment and explained the differences between them. The floor was opened for public comment regarding the proposed ordinance.

Linda Dejongh thought that the 3 dog limitation was more than enough. She thought 6 was too much. Linda was also against any form of Special Use Permit for exceeding the 3 dog limit.

Bonnie Main did not see any problem with having a 6 dog limit and also doesn't believe that anyone should dictate how many animals another person owns.

Shari Clark would like to see the limit at 2 dogs, but is okay with 3. She and her family has had bad experiences in the past with dogs and biting. She would not like to have 4 plus dogs barking at her let alone living next door. She supports the proposed ordinance as written, but feels for residents who may not be able to afford the Special Use Permit fee.

Amy Byers felt that a 4 dog limit was an appropriate number and that the A1 zoning district should be exempt like before due to the districts separation from other housing units. She would have liked to see more details from other municipalities that Planning Commission used to craft the proposed ordinance.

Judith Transue thought the proposed amendment was an improvement on the current especially removing the cat limitations. She was fine with the 3 dog limitation and liked the idea of a Special Use Permit for those wishing to own more dogs.

Florence Sheldon stated that she currently has 4 dogs that are all well behaved and contained within and invisible fence. She would have like to see the limit in the 4-6 range, but feels 3 is too low especially since she has 4 dogs that are all well behaved. She had other questions regarding zoning that were answered by Planning Commission.

Nick Peterle had emailed the Village stating that he did not feel a dog limitation was necessary.

Robert Blocher closed the public hearing and Planning Commission discussed the proposed ordinance.

Kerry felt that Planning Commission did not take Florence's situation into account when developing the amendment. He also was upset that Planning Commission was using ordinance examples from larger cities such as Ionia, Portland and Lowell. He believed that Planning Commission should be looking at smaller villages such as Woodland.

Jordan disagreed with Kerry and stated that no matter the municipalities, the population densities and lot sizes were all similar, so the use of examples from larger cities was still valid and warranted. Jordan and Kerry had several disagreements regarding Planning Commission.

Kerry McMillen resigned from the Planning Commission effective immediately and left the Village Hall at 8:03 pm.

Planning Commission discussion continued. All commissioners agreed that the A1 Zoning District should be exempt from the proposed ordinance. Robbie wanted to change the dog limit to 4, but Jordan and Bob felt that 3 was more appropriate.

Motion made by Jordan and seconded by Bob to recommend Council approve the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment as written with the addition of excluding the A1 Zoning District from parts A and B. Upon roll call vote, aye – Jordan and Bob, nay – Robbie. Motion passed.

Robbie provided a report from Council:

- Sidewalk repair in town will be occurring soon.
- New village welcome signs have been installed and look great.
- The blue house across the street from the Clarksville Bible Church will be demolished soon.

The Zoning Ordinance codification draft has just been provided by ALP. Council and Planning Commission will review the document and then approve it. Once this is finalized, the codified zoning ordinance will be published and made available online.

The tree grant program has been approved by Council. Jordan will provide more details in the coming meetings. A grant application will have to be developed before spring 2015.

The next Planning Commission meeting will be held October 16, 2014.  
The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

*Submitted by Jordan Burnie, Secretary*