

**TOWN OF ELSMERE
PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
October 1, 2019
6:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER: The Planning Commission Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER FOR THOSE WISHING TO DO SO:

ROLL CALL:

CHAIRMAN	CHARLES LINDELL	PRESENT
COMMISSIONER	ROBERT ANDERSON	PRESENT
COMMISSIONER	LEON BACKER	ABSENT
COMMISSIONER	JOSE MATTHEWS	PRESENT
COMMISSIONER	KRISTA NUSCHKE	PRESENT
COMMISSIONER	MARY STEPPI	PRESENT
COMMISSIONER	VACANT	

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Approval of the minutes from the September 3, 2019 Planning Commission Meeting

ACTION: Chairman Lindell requested a change be made to the September 3, 2019 planning meeting minutes that Commission Nuschke made first motion and Commissioner Mathews second motion. Chairman Lindell made motion to approve once the change is corrected.

VOTE: 5 in favor, 1 absent and 1 vacancy Motion carried

Lindell – Yes, Anderson – yes, Backer – Absent, Matthews – Yes, Nuschke – Yes, Steppi – Yes

NEW BUSINESS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

Review of the Comprehensive Plan

Mr. O'Neill introduced the guests that were attending the meeting. Paul Moser and Cooper Bowers from Deldot, Heather Dunigan, from Wilmapco and Jennifer Reitz, from IPA

Mr. O'Neill stated tonight's focus will be on transportation and these are the individuals whom to speak with any questions or concerns.

Mr. O'Neill asked if any of the commissioners had any comments about the transportation information packet that was sent to them to review.

Commissioner Steppi inquired about the complete streets policy and had a lengthy discussion about and asked does Elsmere have a policy. In the next decade shouldn't we have a policy or resolution.

Mr. O'Neill responded that it is a Statewide policy and yes it can be put into the comprehensive plan.

Ms. Heather Dunigan also responded by saying the more in detail and descriptive the plan is about the complete streets the better it will present to Deldot.

Mr. O'Neill stated that there have been some improvements that have not been funded but were approved.

Commissioner Steppi inquired about the extension of the walking trail and said that yes, it is a great start to the trail, but it is very basic. It should be more inviting with some plants, shrubbery and maybe in the future some historical markers.

Chairman Lindell stated that he had spoken to Town Manager Giles that there are discussions about making sure the trail is ADA compliant as well.

Commissioner Steppi inquired about the public transportation policy. She stated the busing is very crowded and is highly utilized. The routes are very busy with only a few benches for residents to sit.

Chairman Lindell asked Ms. Dunigan who is the town of Elsmere's liaison with Wilmapco. Is it Town Manager Giles?

Ms. Dunigan responded that once a year a letter gets sent to all municipalities about any and all transportation projects. The letter usually goes to Town Manager and the Mayor. She stated she will add Chairman Lindell since he is Chairman of the planning commission. She also stated that at any time Chairman Lindell could reach out to her for help and information.

Commissioner Steppi inquired about the Bicycle plan on the route 1 bridge and the construction of it and that it is still under construction. There was a lengthy conversation as to it's a great idea to change the bridge to one lane coming and one lane going and including the bike path.

Mr. Bowers responded that he will try to find out who worked on the project and investigate on his end and get back to her.

Commissioner Steppi inquired about the safety of the streets and why was the speed limit reduction in the last comprehensive plan told no.

Mr. O'Neill stated his understanding is that to be able to change the speed limit down to 25 mph that through the State of Delaware with Dedo who isn't active anymore the road would need to be determined as a main street or a program street.

Chairmen Lindell asked Mr. O'Neill to enlighten him and the commissioners what is the Vision Zero Network is.

Mr. O'Neill responded that it more of an aspiration and attention getter to take notice to the plan. It is a Multi-National Road safety project that attain to achieve a highway system with no fatalities or serious injuries.

Mr. O'Neill said that focuses on Pedestrian and Bicycle safety. The reason he mentioned it because it will catch attention and will be noticed that this is a serious. He stated its about setting a Visionary goal that the town wants to achieve.

Mr. O'Neill stated that we want to improve road safety by traffic design and engineering changes.

Mr. Paul Moser stated his recommendation is to make changes and improvements to the roadways for the to be safer. The physical alterations will make the drivers slow down not a change in speed limits.

Commissioner Steppi brought up sidewalk safety and that there is so much density and that it is only going to get worse as the population grows.

Commissioner Anderson asked if the lights at route 100 and Kirkwood highway could be made no turn on Red to make the roadway a little safer at all the lights there.

Ms. Heather Dunigan said that the question can be asked to Deldot, but she stated that Deldot does not like to change the right turn on red light.

Mr. O'Neill talked about Parking issues and possible shared parking was a suggestion. That two business can share parking but its not an easy thing to accomplish.

Commissioner Steppi asked about the Adopt a Highway plan that was in the 2010 Comprehensive plan.

Mr. O'Neill stated that yes in fact it can be left in the plan and it's a good idea.

Mr. O'Neill asked would the commissioners like to go through the draft recommendations now or review on their own and get back to him.

Chairman Lindell asked if he meant all of them or just Transportation.

Mr. O'Neill stated all of them.

Commissioner Steppi said number three under transportation recommendations, focus on updating all town sidewalks to ADA standards. She said questioned all town sidewalks and whose cost it would be. Also, that sidewalks before streets.

Mr. O'Neill stated that the outreach will start with a town hall meeting on November 5th.

Chairman Lindell asked if on November 5th from 5:00 to 6:15 the town is going to have an Open House at town hall for residents to attend before the next planning commission meeting.

Mr. O'Neill said yes. He encouraged the commissioners to notify all their friend and residents the associate with to come to the meeting.

Chairman Lindell asked if there were any more questions or concerns.

ITEMS SUBMITTED BY CHAIRMAN AND BOARD MEMBERS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

ACTION: Commissioner Anderson made motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mathews.

VOTE: 5 in favor, 1 absent, and 1 vacancy

Motion carried

Lindell – Yes, Anderson – Yes, Backer – Absent, Matthews – Yes, Nuschke – Yes, Steppi – Yes

At this time, the meeting was adjourned.

These minutes summarize the agenda items and other issues discussed at the October 01, 2019 Planning Commission meeting. Votes are recorded accurately. The audio tape(s) of this meeting will be available at Town Hall for a period of two years from the date these minutes are approved. The audio tape(s) may be reviewed at Town Hall by appointment and in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

CHARLES LINDELL, CHAIRMAN

LEON BACKER, SECRETARY