Code Enforcement + Zoning Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 1, 2019

Meeting started 7:30 AM.

In attendance: Becky Tener, Chair, Corey Shearer, Pete Vail, Sean Fowler, Jeff Davis, Paul Martin, Mayor Scheffer, Linda

Absent: Randy Groff, Committee Member

Sidewalks - Becky asked if we could use CDBG money for sidewalks. Linda stated homeowners would be responsible for applying for the grant. Corey stated that the website stated they are not taking applications for the non-emergency grants at this time.

Sean has not had anyone complain about neighbors sidewalks at this time. Paul stated we have a lot of sidewalks that are terrible. However, funding is a problem and trees cause many of the problems. Also, they are responsible for their sidewalks. Some communities have funds to do a 50/50 split with the homeowner. We aren't in a place to do it at this time. Mr. McKittrick states that some of the sidewalks are in horrible...
condition. Including the Historical District. Paul stated that we had a committee in the past regarding sidewalks. However, it was decided that we don't have any funds at this time. Also, even though the homeowners are responsible, they also don't have the means to get them fixed. Mr. McKinstry suggested to give some incentive to encourage people to fix their sidewalks. Becky stated that during the Candlelight Tour last year some people in wheelchairs had to use the street. Also, the concern if we aren't ADA compliant someone could come back on the homeowner and the city. Paul stated the homeowner is responsible. Linda stated that the Mayor and she participated in a month long series with the Regional Planning Commission. They talked about complete streets, reducing deaths by getting people on the sidewalks and getting people walking more. Becky will reach out to the schools to see if they can help with students walking to Thomas Edison and LHS using Fair Avenue around the park area. They also see a problem with enforcement 50/50 is a good idea but doesn't know if he leans toward the citizens or the city with the
issue. This issue has also been discussed in the Law Committee.

Thift Street - Alan has already discussed everything with the owner regarding the house. She has also been in touch with the Land Bank. Alan is looking into other ways to possibly demolish the property. However, it could take over a year and so would need to check with the Law Director's office. Alan discussed the abatement budget which a good amount has been spent already.

Building Department - Becky asked about the building on Twin Creek. Nothing going on at this time. The building is in compliance with city codes. Also, the building behind Walmart is done. Mayor Scheffler stated that with talking to Jennifer for such all of their places are occupied.
Code Enforcement—Sean discussed the Columbus Dispatch article regarding the Columbus Street property. Facts of the story were incorrect. The issue regarding the homeowner is now with the courts. April of last year Code Enforcement had sent out a notice regarding debris and exterior paint. They cleaned up some of the debris which closed that issue. The owners reached out to Code Enforcement in May. They stated the house would possibly be sold. Code Enforcement informed the owners if they needed more time to let them know. No other contact from the homeowner was made after May. Code Enforcement did an automatic extension until October 2017. Code Enforcement reached back out to the homeowner in October and left a message to call them back within 48 hours if more time was needed. The homeowner never called back and a summons was issued. Both owners are being charged separately. Code Enforcement will work with owners if they are willing to come up with a solution. One of Code Enforcement sends documents to the Prosecutor—they are no longer involved. Both the Mayor and Sean were sent
Emails, Facebook and text messages regarding the model. Becky went to the Columbus Street address to speak to the owners after finding out about the story. I offered to help them out with CD 86 grants. Dean stated there had been some problems in the past with the property.

Land Bank - Becky asked if we are looking funding this year. Dean says we have it thru November. People on East Wheeling Street have a house they would like to get rid of. The house is most secured. Working Man's Friend has confirmation of a grant that will remove all tanks, structures, etc. After the project is done it will be turned into green space until the Land Bank sells it. Starfie on East Main Street still has an owner. They have cleaned up the property, painted and fixed broken windows. Property is still in litigation. Becky commented on how well the Land Bank has worked for the Westside. Dean agreed and said people from the Westside have agreed.
Code Enforcement - Property owner from Roosevelt Avenue brought in receipt showing purchase of new windows. Code Enforcement is working with owner since they are showing progress of fixing up the residence. Becky states they are clearly making improvements.

New Business - None

Old Business - Corey stated that he has been talking with Sean about improving certain areas of town that are worse than others.

Reoff spoke about a garage on Eagle Avenue that was being converted into a living space.

Hubert Ave Residence - Becky spoke about water draining into the alley. Code Enforcement didn't think it was a problem. Becky had spoken to Denise Criles regarding this problem. Denise said it should be reported to Code Enforcement. Sean said it wasn't a Code Enforcement issue. Becky was told by Denise it cannot go into the alley. It has
to go in the street. Sean thought it was coming from downtown. Paul did state some things should be pumped into the street and not the alley.

Homeless Camps—Sean sent emails and pictures last week to Council members, etc. Last week Code Enforcement and Lancaster City Sanitation contacted people under the Broad Street Bridge to move their things. The city went in and cleaned up the area. Sanitation filled up a 30 yard dumpster. A few days later the people were back and services were offered to the people.

Paul stated our meeting place will now be on the 2nd floor of City Hall. Signage will be posted to direct people.

Flags were replaced downtown by the Sherman Rotary. Mayor Schappell commented that the flags were in bad shape because they are nylon. Flags are changed twice a year at a cost of $1,200.00
Meeting Adjourned: 8:43 am
by Corey Schoonover, Committee Member
2nd Becky Tener

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by
Becky Tener
7/15/19