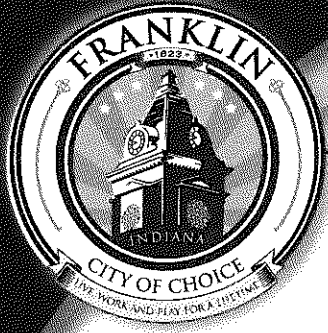




CITY OF FRANKLIN

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT • DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING

MINUTES

FRANKLIN CITY PLAN COMMISSION

April 17, 2012

Members Present:

Jim Martin	President
Kevin McElyea	Vice-President
Suzanne Findley	Secretary
Pam Ault	Member
Steve Davis	Member
Diane Gragg	Member
Georganna Haltom	Member
Tim Holmes	Member
Chris Phillips	Member

Members Absent:

Joe Abban	Member
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Others Present:

Joanna Myers	Senior Planner
Kevin Tolloty	Associate Planner
Lynn Gray	Legal Counsel
Jaime Harshman	Recording Secretary

Call to Order:

Lynn Gray called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Swearing In of new Members:

Ms. Gray swore in the Pam Ault and Steve Davis as new Plan Commission Members.

Election of Officers:

Chris Phillips made a motion to nominate Jim Martin as President. Tim Holmes seconded the motion. Georganna Haltom made a motion to nominate Kevin McElyea as President. Pam Ault seconded the motion.

Tim Holmes made a motion to close the nominations. Suzanne Findley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A written vote was taken and counted by Lynn Gray. Jim Martin was elected President.

Chris Phillips made a motion to nominate Kevin McElyea as Vice-President. Georganna Haltom seconded the motion.

Tim Holmes made a motion to close the nominations. Suzanne Findley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Kevin McElyea was unanimously elected Vice-President.

Chris Phillips made a motion to nominate Suzanne Findley as Secretary. Pam Ault seconded the motion. Pam Ault made a motion to close the nominations. Kevin McElyea seconded the motion.

Suzanne Findley was unanimously elected Secretary.

Chris Phillips made a motion to nominate Lynn Gray as Legal Council. Kevin McElyea seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Jim Martin noted that on page 3 his name needed to be corrected. Georganna Haltom stated that on page 2 the word "shortening" was misspelled.

Georganna Haltom made a motion to approve the November 22, 2011 minutes with the noted corrections. Kevin McElyea seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Swearing In:

En masse, Ms. Gray swore in all individuals in the audience who were going to be presenting testimony.

Report of Officers and Committees:

Joanna Myers stated that the Technical Review Committee reviewed the sanitary sewer relocation project involving Tippmann. The committee also reviewed the buy-out area and the rights-of-way and the relocation of all the utilities there.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

PC 2012-06 Metro FiberNet Economic Development Area & Economic Development Plan:

Richard Starkey, representing the City of Franklin, stated Metro FiberNet is proposing coming to the City and provide fiber optic cable to all homes and businesses in the city of Franklin as well as Whiteland, New Whiteland and other parts of Johnson County. It is viewed as an economic development project because fiber is the fastest form of speed for the internet, phone and TV that you can possibly have. He stated Metro FiberNet would like for the City to consider a TIF district as they are looking to invest around \$20 million in the area. The TIF area is the space where the line will be laid. He stated it would be taxed per foot as personal property. Metro FiberNet is going to buy purchase their own bond and the TIF money collected would pay them back in terms of principal and interest on the bond.

Steve Biggerstaff, Metro FiberNet, stated that the headquarters is located out of Evansville, IN. They have met with the City Council, schools, hospitals, the RDC, and the County. He stated that fiber is taken to each house, not just each neighborhood. They have only done this in Indiana so far. The equipment will have a capability of taking 10 gigs to the house which allows for unlimited speed. He stated they are in the process of purchasing a building on Commerce Drive that will house their local office. They are looking at about a \$20 million investment for Franklin and Whiteland and then more expansions from there.

Mr. Biggerstaff stated that the TIF area is just for the fiber area itself. There will be a \$2.75 million bond for over a 25 year period of time. He stated that as they extend into the County they will capture the tax dollars which will help to pay the bonds off earlier. During 2014-2015 is when they will see the taxes come in.

Chris Phillips questioned how the cost of the service would compare to cable. Mr. Biggerstaff stated that they have to compete pricewise and they are competitive. Mr. Holmes questioned what he thought the number of people would be in the user area. Mr. Biggerstaff stated that for the long term, about 40% or so, comparing it to other communities.

Mr. Biggerstaff stated that they have meetings in May with the City Council and the RDC. They should be serving customers within several months of that, hopefully by the end of summer. He stated that they will bring 20 permanent jobs to Franklin as well as 100 jobs total during construction.

Mr. Biggerstaff stated that they have met with people from The Legends, Franklin College and the Masonic Home. They are trying to meet with the Methodist home and hospital. Before they go into a neighborhood, they will put out door hangers & numbers for people to call if they have questions. They also like to talk to homeowners' associations. Diane Gragg questioned if they would just be in the Comcast area. Mr. Biggerstaff stated he hasn't studied where Comcast is in Franklin yet.

Steve Barnett stated that with the TIF, they will not be asking for a tax abatement. They are going to invest about \$20 million and the bond is for \$2.75 million.

Mr. Starkey stated that when bonds are issued by the recommendation of the EDC, the City issues a bond and loans the proceeds of the bond to the company to do what they need to do. This situation is different in that Metro FiberNet is buying the bond. As Metro FiberNet puts in infrastructure, that amount gets credited to them as the bond holder. He stated that if they don't build what they say they are going to build then they don't get paid. Mr. Starkey stated that they are looking at a 25 year bond. If they don't pay it off in 25 years, then Metro FiberNet loses and the City will not be out any money.

Action taken on PC 2012-06 Metro FiberNet Economic Development Area & Economic Development Plan:

Suzanne Findley made a motion to approve Resolution 2012-06 as presented. Chris Phillips seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PC 2012-04: Amending Article 8-Sign Standards & Article 13.2-Defination of Zoning Ordinance:

Kevin Tolloty, Associate Planner, stated that they changed the layout of the Sign Ordinance using different symbols, pictures and page designs. The Non-Residential signs were split into two categories, "Temporary" and "Permanent". He stated that they would like to allow the electronic message boards with conditions. There were minor changes to exempt, prohibited and residential signs. MXD & MXN are no longer separated from the other Mixed Use signs. Mr. Tolloty presented the proposed amendments in detail.

Mr. Holmes stated that the proposed standards related to electronic signs are consistent with the conditions the BZA has been approving. Ms. Myers stated that they have changed some regulations that were based on content to be in line with federal law.

Mr. Tolloty explained the changes for prohibited, exempt, real estate, banners, a-frames, & other portable signs. The downtown overlay district has also had changes made.

Mr. Tolloty stated that in putting the new proposal together he looked at a lot of sign codes in the area. The City of Franklin has more allowances than most other cities. Ms. Myers stated that she and Krista Linke were both involved in the meetings and feel that it is a better sign code for the City of Franklin. She stated that when the sign code was adopted in 2004, electronic sign boards were not as prevalent as they are today. Mr. Holmes stated that the biggest problem they run into is when a sign contractor tells a business something is allowed and then the business makes the purchase and finds out that it is not allowed.

Action taken on PC 2012-04: Amending Article 8-Sign Standards & Article 13.2-Defination of Zoning Ordinance:

Tim Holmes made a motion to forward a favorable recommendation to City Council. Chris Phillips seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business:

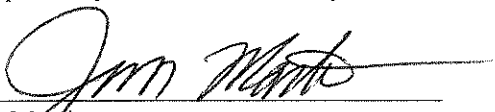
Ms. Myers presented the 2012 Calendar of Meeting Dates and the Member list.

She stated that there would be a public information meeting for the North Main Street Project on Wednesday, April 25th at 6pm in the Council Chambers.

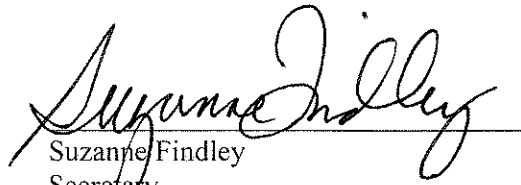
Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted this May 15, 2012.



Jim Martin
President



Suzanne Findley
Secretary