

PC Zoning Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 15, 2017
10:00 a.m. Council Chambers



City of South Haven

Present: PC members Heinig, Peterson, and Stimson. Also present were the Zoning Administrators (Anderson and Levin), Natalie Thompson, Chief of Police, and Kate Hosier, Assistant City Manager.

The meeting was called in order to discuss the requested recommendations for city council related to the 2016 Medical Marihuana Facilities Locating Act (MMFLA).

The meeting began with presentations from two interested parties. The first was Mark Smith with JMR Enterprises. Smith encouraged the City to opt-in to the MMFLA and stated he would like to be chosen to establish a grow facility in the City. His associate was also there referring to himself as a 'Bud-Tender' and a 'Grower Expert.' They both spoke of their local backgrounds and that they are already accepting bids for construction.

Anderson responded that this is a Planning Commission subcommittee and that the group has decided to recommend the 5 facilities be permitted in the City of South Haven. She informed the presenters that our recommendations will go to the full Planning Commission and their report will go the City Council for final approval.

The second presenter was Matthew Roman, Attorney for Cannabis Legal Group in Royal Oak, MI. Heinig explained to Mr. Roman who we are, the Planning Commission Subcommittee, and that our recommendations will go to the full Planning Commission and their report will go the City Council for final approval.

He provided handouts on the positive effects of Medical Marihuana. He spoke about the Law and the Act. He also stated the Medical Marihuana businesses will provide jobs of 5 -20 per facility. Anderson responded that we are much farther along than he thinks because we are aware of the Act, and have chosen to opt-in with all 5 facilities. Mr. Roman stated he has a client who is very interested in establishing a facility in the City. Notably he stated these businesses would not be able to be moved out the State or Country, land values will likely triple in value, and taxes will increase. He also stated the MMFLA will make medical marihuana safer due to testing, do inspections, and track the seed to sale of plants so there will be less of a black market and a safer product. He stated he has ordinance templates if the City was interested.

Levin questioned if other municipalities hire him for specific MMFLA legal representation. He responded no, some will use our ordinances, but we represent interested businesses. Hosier

asked what the State would test for. Roman replied they would test for pesticides and other chemicals and that the facilities are up to code.

Chief of Police Thompson reported findings from Portage and Ann Arbor regarding medical marihuana initiatives. Portage has decided to wait until the end of the year to put an ordinance together. They current have an illegal dispensary, but have a temporary stay of enforcement on it. She also reported Ann Arbor has already drafted their ordinance (see attachment).

Hosier informed that Paw Paw and the rest of Van Buren County are not interested in opting in, but Niles, Kalamazoo, and Douglas are going to opt-in.

Referring to Ryan Bosscher's questions regarding the Map of Permitted Facility Locations, it was decided the dog park is not considered a park, trails will be eliminated from needing a 600 foot buffer, the Ravine behind Pizza Hut will be taken out of the nearby park for these purposes, and 'Churches' will be referred to as 'Religious Institutions,' and take out St. Basil's Church is in residential so it already is not permitted.

Anderson suggested the Working Group is ready to put together a full report for the Planning Commission and final maps will be included along with their final recommendations. All present agreed. Anderson suggested meeting one last time on March 1 at 10:00am to review the report and ensure it is ready to be passed on to the full Planning Commission. All agreed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00am.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenna Levin