

Richlands Planning Commission

December 1, 2020

Members Present

Rod Cury
Michelle Elswick
Elliot Joyce
Randy Smith
Richard Smith
Gaynelle Thompson

Staff and Town Officials Present

Tim Taylor

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Richard Smith.
2. Gaynelle Thompson gave the invocation; Elliot Joyce led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. The agenda was presented. There were no additions/deletions; Gaynelle Thompson made the motion to accept the agenda; Randy Smith seconded the motion. All members voted “aye” and the agenda was accepted.
4. The Minutes from the November 3, 2020 regular meeting were not readily available due to Adrienne’s absence. Those Minutes will be reviewed at the January 5, 2021 meeting.
5. New Business:
 - Rod Cury gave an update on the Flood Task Force meeting. In attendance at the meeting were Rod, Shea Cook, Nathan Keene and Curtis Breeding. Shae is disappointed in the lack of participation by those that had been asked to join the task force. As a result, he would like to add more members. Curtis Breeding was added to the task force by Rick Woods. Curtis suggested the following people: Jack Ray, Thomas Lester, York Lindsey, and Jaimie Tuggle. The Planning Commission discussed several people that could be assets to the task force. Richard suggested someone that lives in the Richlands area. Rod suggested Elliot Joyce. Elliot asked when they meet. Rod stated They have been meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Richard recommended to include someone in the Brooklyn Addition/Lake Park area. His suggestion was George Brown or Glayde Brown. Rod suggested that the Planning Commission have the final say over the members of the task force. Richard recommended the candidates be contacted. Gaynelle made the motion, Rod seconded it. Richard will contact each of the possible candidates for the Flood Task Force.
 - Rod Cury welcomed Elliot Joyce. Tim Taylor explained to Elliot what the planning commission is. Richard explained what has been done in the past and some of the things we still lack.
 - Rod discussed the Clinch River Walking Trail and what the commission has done to get the project started. The plan is in place to start this project. The project is at the point that we are ready to seek the funding to get started. Tim suggested we meet with Rick Chitwood of Thompson & Litton to discuss ideas on how to get the funding to complete this project. Tim will ask Rick to attend the next meeting to discuss these ideas. The 3 phases of the plan can be viewed on the Town website.

- The Town Council did not approve to fund a grant writer. Connie Allen will be the grant writer for the Town.
- Tim suggests in the future we need to look at Uses Zoning.
- Rod notified the Planning Commission we need to appoint someone to the Zoning Boards of Appeals due to the resignation of Virginia Hart. The appointee must be someone on the Planning Commission and must be approved by the Council. The Zoning Boards of Appeals meets when necessary usually around 4pm. Because of work commitments from other members, it was decided to recommend Gaynelle Thompson. Rod made the motion and Randy seconded it.

6. Old Business: No old business

7. Miscellaneous/Members' Concerns:

- Rod would like to have Rick Chitwood at the January meeting to give us updates on the Clinch River Walking Trail.
- Tim will only be here for one or two more meetings.
- Elliot thanked everyone for the welcome and is looking forward to learning about the Commission.
- Randy asked about the Hilltop Motel in Doran. Tim said they are renovating it for a new motel. There will also be a laundry mat and some sort of store there. The hold up on the project currently is the need for a gas line across the four lane. Tim, also, recommended we explore Tourism Ordinance Zones for tax purposes. He stated if the town does not collect, the county will. When asked if that is a council or commission issue, Tim suggested running it through the commission.
- Richard would like to discuss cleaning up the mixed zones at the February meeting and then look at the maps in the March meeting to see what needs to be cleaned up.

8. With no other business, Randy Smith made the motion to adjourn; it was seconded by Gaynelle Thompson and all members voted "aye". Meeting was adjourned.

9. The next meeting for the Planning Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 7:30 pm.

Submitted by: Michelle Elswick, Secretary