

TOWN OF KIRKWOOD PUBLIC HEARING

October 25, 2016

A public hearing regarding the Town of Kirkwood's proposed Comprehensive Plan was held on October 25, 2016 at 6:00 PM at the Joseph A. Griffin Town Hall with Supervisor Gordon Kniffen presiding.

Present: Supervisor Gordon Kniffen
Councilman Robert Weingartner
Councilman Lewis Grubham
Councilwoman Linda Yonchuk
Councilman William Diffendorf, Jr.

Also Present: Oliver Blaise III, Attorney
Gayle Diffendorf, Town Clerk
Raymond Coolbaugh, DPW Commissioner
James Smith, Budget Officer

Supervisor Kniffen explained that they have been working on the Comprehensive Plan with the County for about a year, with a couple of public meetings being held at Bell School which followed mailings to Town residents. This public hearing is being held to see if anyone has any questions about the Plan. He added that the Town spent money and both the Town and County spent a lot of time putting this together and they do not expect to just lay it aside. There will be a group headed by Councilman Grubham and including Marchie Diffendorf, Planning Board Chairman and Duane Travis, Zoning Board of Appeals Chairman, which will look at the Town's ordinances and laws as well as other things. In 2008 when Mr. Kline was involved, there were some updates but there is more to be done.

Supervisor Kniffen opened the hearing to public comment.

Larry Holt of Trim Street, Kirkwood, thanked the Town Board for naming Kirkwood a Purple Heart town. He said he does not want to wait 1 year and 18 days like he had to wait for something else to pass. He noted that the signs are great. It is an honor and as far as he knows there are many Purple Heart counties in New York but Kirkwood is the only Purple Heart town. He salutes the Board and the people of Kirkwood for the recognition of all veterans and the beautiful Veterans River Park.

Larry stated that the Comprehensive Plan was updated back in 2002, at which time unregistered motor vehicles were referenced. For the 2016 update in February they did a survey which included junk motor vehicles, and since previously it was unregistered motor vehicles, this has him confused. In looking at the survey in regard to junk motor vehicles the percentages of concern were major at 49%, minor at 34% and not a concern at 17%. In reading about the community concerns in the updated Plan, Larry said it stated "responses indicated nine out of the fifteen choices were major concerns in the Kirkwood community,

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while the other six choices were considered minor concerns.” So he questioned if they are talking junk or unregistered and if it is junk, who the junk officer is. It was noted this involves the ordinance that addresses the issue of two unregistered vehicles. Councilman Grubham said it still is unregistered vehicles, not junk. Larry said that is why he is confused, questioning if it is junk or unregistered vehicles. Larry said he is a recycler and he likes to bring things back and that is part of history. He said maybe he taught kids over the years and possibly kept them out of trouble by teaching them about cars. These cars today are used in parades and in car shows and that is a lot of money that goes to charity and also scholarships. He added that he does not think two is unreasonable. If someone had four cars in their yard and a tree was growing out of one of them that would be a problem. If there are two unregistered vehicles because parts might be taken from one for the other, eventually one would be junk. He does not think it is an issue as long as it is kept neat.

Councilman Grubham said there are a lot of suggestions in the Plan, although they are not actually changes they are making to the code. A committee will work on this at some point in the near future. He added that the problem is sometimes it doesn't fit everyone. Although someone like Larry keeps it neat and clean, there are some people that don't do that. It is difficult to write a code or a law that addresses everything.

Councilwoman Yonchuk said this Plan is set up so it is easy to read and is worth the time and effort to read, regardless of its size. The sections on suggestions, both the positives and negatives of the Town, are excellent. There is not often a report this thick that she would suggest people read.

Hearing no additional comments, Supervisor Kniffen ordered the hearing closed at 6:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gayle M. Diffendorf
Town Clerk