

**Comins Township**  
**Planning Commission Minutes**  
**Comins Twp. Hall**  
**August 10<sup>th</sup> 2023**

**Call To Order/Pledge:** 7:03 pm

**Roll Call:** John McConnell [here], Dan Swartzendruber [here], Kyle Yoder [here], Arisa Handrich [here], Jerome Kunnath [here]

**Approval of Minutes [July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023] – Arisa Handrich 1st** John McConnell 2nd, All in favor

**Guest:** Rob Murphy, Twsp Supervisor, invited to join

**Public Comment:** no 'new' public comment not related to discussion items

**New Business:**

**Special Meeting To Discuss whether ordinance to opt out of marijuana dispensaries should be changed to allow dispensaries**

Rob Murphy advertised this public comment meeting thoroughly and we had a record attendance by the public

**Old Business:** a) Canna Club review – Public in attendance numbered 27 people, 22 people signed in. As polled by 'hands up' 25 people were against changing the ordinance to allow a dispensary, 2 people were for changing the ordinance to allow a dispensary.

Roman Benson spoke about his request to allow his planned dispensary, outlining his operating plans, how his current site in Big Creek Twsp has been welcomed by neighbors – citing how there were no needed visits by law enforcement – how they run the business according to current state laws and regulations, how they try to be a welcomed, legal business in the community.

**'FOR' changing the ordinance**

Under public comment of people 'for' changing the ordinance, two [2] people voiced opinions. **Julie Stewart** commented that she was for a new dispensary, stating that she know many people are wanting one in our township, but that most were afraid to come and publicly voice their opinions as they feared speaking about same in our conservative group.

**Dani Yustick** agreed with Julie, and stated that she would rather see people get their marijuana from a regulated dispensary instead of from 'street sales'.

**'AGAINST' CHANGING THE ORDINANCE**

**Lowell Eastman** – stated that he believed the added revenue from a dispensary wasn't needed in our community from a business like a dispensary

**Herb Montague** stated that he thought that such a business doesn't fit the 'family' atmosphere of Fairview ....our small community feeling

**Virgil and Ruth Hershberger** expressed their opinion that such a business doesn't fit our local area, and that the same products are available nearby in other townships

**Robert Jones** doesn't want a business like Canna Club, or any other dispensaries in our community and that the current ordinance to 'opt out' of allowing such already stands and doesn't need to be changed

Many other residents expressed the same views, not wanting marijuana dispensaries in our community

#### **Call ins**

Rob Murphy stated that he received an email [which he shared] from a woman in opposition to changing the ordinance; and Rob shared that he had four phone call ins expressing opposition – no call ins 'wanting' the ordinance to be changed

#### **Planning Commission opinions**

Dan Swartzendruber asked the opinions of commission members on whether to ordinance opting out of dispensaries should be changed

**Kyle Yoder** said that he was strongly pro business but that he would probably be neutral in his opinion if it came to a vote in November, but that he didn't think the ordinance needed to be changed since there was so much opposition to same evident at the meeting. So he was against changing the ordinance.

**Arisa Handrich** opined that the ordinance shouldn't be changed

**John McConnell** said he felt that the ordinance should stand as is since there was no apparent benefit to adding a dispensary

**Jerry Kunnath** decided, after much heehawing back and forth and numerous questions/discussion, that he was against changing the ordinance

**Dan Swartzendruber** said that he knows, after much discussion with citizens over the past few months, that many people in the community aren't in favor of the ordinance being changed, and that these same people voted for the ordinance; so he was not in favor of changing the ordinance either.

B] Master Plan – tabled till September meeting when we will review and tweak plan

**Motion to Adjourn:** 1st Jerry Kunnath, 2<sup>nd</sup> John McConnell – meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Jerry Kunnath

**Next meeting is: September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 7pm**

