

**Taneytown Planning Commission
Minutes
April 25, 2016**

The Taneytown Planning Commission met, April 25, 2016 at 7:30 PM in the City Council Chambers. Chairman Parker and commission members, LeFaivre, Glass, Archie, Wantz and Naylor were present. County planning liaison Graf, City manager Heine, and planning director Wieprecht were also present. The meeting opened with the roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the March 28, 2016 Planning Commission meeting were reviewed. Chairman Parker requested that developer information be added to the paragraph regarding a site plan waiver request for 5300 Taneytown Pike. Commission member Wantz moved to approve the minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Planning Director Wieprecht reviewed aspects of the concept site plan for 5300 Taneytown Pike by CannaMD, and introduced Andrew Cohen, CEO of CannaMD. Mr. Cohen introduced the other company founders present, and summarized the group's experience in medicine and business. Mr. Cohen and project architect Josh Nicodemus reviewed proposed improvements to the site and responded to questions from Commission members. Commission member Glass moved to accept the concept plan, enabling plans to be distributed to reviewing agencies. The motion passed unanimously.

Planning Director Wieprecht advised the Commission of the need to extend the Meades Crossing Development Rights and Responsibilities Agreement (DRRA), and Steve Smith, one of the principals of Meades Crossing updated the Commission on efforts to keep the project moving forward. Commission member Glass moved that extending Meades Crossing's DRRA for another year remains consistent with the Taneytown Community Comprehensive Plan. The motion passed unanimously.

County liaison Graf highlighted aspects of the County's 2015 Annual Report pertinent to Taneytown. The County is seeking approval of the plan at the next Commission meeting, and has provided a draft letter that may be used to document the Commission's approval for the Maryland Department of Planning.

Planning director Wieprecht advised the Commission that several groups and a business have expressed interest in utilizing electronic message display board type signs. The City is among those expressing interest in allowing such signs in districts other than the general business district where they are currently permitted. Planning director Wieprecht summarized several options by which the code could be amended to accommodate some or all of those interested in utilizing such signs. Commission members were asked to consider what approach, if any, they would like to consider.

Planning director Wieprecht reviewed drafts of Natural and Agricultural Resources, and Economic Development chapters of the comprehensive plan with the Commission. Some statistical information has yet to be updated, and discussion was held regarding downtown revitalization, but no specific changes were requested to the drafts.

With the next regularly scheduled meeting falling on the Memorial Day Holiday, consensus of the Commission was to move the next meeting to May 23, 2016. With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:59 PM on motion by Commission member Wantz.

Submitted by:

Jim Wieprecht
Director of Planning and Zoning