

ANDREWS TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES OF A SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING MEETING HELD OCTOBER 10, 2017

A public meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Andrews, Indiana convened on October 10, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. in the Andrews Municipal Building in accordance with applicable law and pursuant to appropriate notice.

ROLL CALL:

Council Members William Johnson, John Harshbarger and Bonnie Walker were present. Clerk-Treasurer Laura Dillon declared a quorum was present and the meeting would continue.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

William Johnson opened the Public Hearing for residents to voice their opinions for a comprehensive plan. The town can then move forward with acquiring grants the State of Indiana has to offer at this time. Johnson reminded everyone this will be a five year plan. Each council member gave a recap of the items suggested to them by town residents.

John Harshbarger stated he would like to see a permanent bandstand at either the town park or the town property on Terrell Street. People would like to improvements with the boat ramp on Main Street at the river. There has been interest in some kind of concession stand with a small seating area for families to have a snack or lunch. Rick Wright asked if improvements would require sidewalks. Harshbarger replied it's not a requirement but the town is working toward improving the sidewalks with the Community Crossing Paving Grant. Bonnie Walker suggested a splash park. It could be placed at the fire department property or the Main Street property across the street from Town Hall. Also, she talk of an ice cream shop. Bonnie is associated with the HARTA group which is trying to develop a bicycle path between Huntington at the Forks of the Wabash and Andrews. Bill Johnson said his top priority is to see a new community building. A community building would be a place that residents could hold meetings and reunions. The Summer Festival Committee could have a headquarters for their activities. Johnson also thinks the Terrell Street property is a perfect location for a disc golf park and or splash park and this property includes a series of nature walking paths. Council is thinking in the direction of quality of life and for residents to have activities to occupy families. Rick Wright gave council a list of improvements for the town park which included extending the play area, map out asphalt for a walking/riding paths throughout the park area, fill in cracks and reseal the basketball court, extend the pavilion cover, construct placards with historical stories around walking path and pavilion and add new play equipment. Rick is opposed to a public restroom as he has contacted other communities and they view restrooms as a major pain and very costly.

Members talked about starting small businesses. Julie Newsome, chair of the festival committee stated her committee had been talking about some kind of monthly craft show. With that being said, the conversation moved into obtaining grants to improve downtown buildings. Council was worried about the matching grant process and that improvements would be so costly to bring the buildings up to current building codes, council questioned if owners could participate in such expensive improvements with lack of marketing for their improvements.

The group discussed an effort to clean up Main Street as visitor's coming through town are enticed into joining community activities. Also, placing signs to direct the public to places of interest around town.

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The priority list is as follows:

1. Community Building
2. Terrell Street – Expansion of splash park and disc golf
3. Lightening along ST Road 105 from US 24 into town
3. Signage to direct public to places of interest

Being no further comments, William Johnson closed the public hearing.

Approved this 23nd day of October, 2017.

APPROVED BY _____ as
WILLIAM K JOHNSON COUNCIL PRESIDENT

APPROVED BY _____ as
BONNIE WALKER COUNCIL MEMBER

APPROVED BY _____ as
JOHN HARSHBARGER COUNCIL MEMBER

ATTEST BY _____ as
LAURA A DILLON CLERK-TREASURER