

THE PARK HILLS CITY COUNCIL HELD A CAUCUS MEETING ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE ST. JOSEPH HEIGHTS LOCATED AT 1601 DIXIE HIGHWAY WITH MAYOR MATT MATTONE PRESIDING. COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: KATHY ZEMBRODT, PAM SPOOR, JASON RESER, GREG CLAYPOLE, STEVE ELKINS AND KARL OBERJOHN ALSO PRESENT WAS ATTORNEY, KYLE WINSLOW AND CITY ENGINEER, JAY BAYER

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Mr. Winslow read a Proclamation in honor and memory of Mr. Clemens (Clem) Hellmann. Mr. Hellmann was a long time resident of Park Hills before moving to Arizona in 1987 with his wife, Mary Jo. Mr. Hellmann was very active in the Park Hills community. He passed away on October 29th.

I. Presenters

A. Mr. David Peru, representing the new Devou Park Clubhouse, addressed Mayor and Council. Mr. Peru would like the new clubhouse to be a gathering center for the surrounding communities. The new clubhouse will be open daily until 9:00 p.m. Mr. Peru invited Park Hills residents to enjoy 15% off meals and \$2.00 draft beers every Monday from 6 -9 p.m. throughout the winter.

B. Mayor Mattone stated that he would like members of the local Human Rights Commission to give a presentation of what such a commission could do for Park Hills. The presentation arises from a welcoming and inclusiveness Order which was tabled. He added; after speaking with Pat Wingo, the Kenton County Economic Development Director, he learned some facts about the census data. The census showed that 49% of the Park Hills population rents and 19% are below poverty threshold. He would like to see neighbors talk openly about their differences. Mayor Mattone introduced Mr. John Fisher, Northern Kentucky Field Supervisor for the Kentucky Human Rights Commission, and Rev. Donald Smith, a Park Hills resident and member of the State Human Rights Commission in our area. Mayor Mattone asked that they give their presentation and then perhaps schedule a public meeting for resident input if there is interest in moving forward. Mr. Fisher gave an overview of how the Human Rights Commission was founded in 1960 by Governor Bert Combs as an advisory agency on civil rights issues. The Kentucky Civil Rights Act was passed in 1966. He went on to inform every one of some of the ways they have helped communities with diversity and discrimination issues. Mr. Fisher also gave the Mayor and Council handouts with more information on the Human Rights Commission and also a model Ordinance should the city move in that direction. Mr. Fisher believes passing a Resolution stating the city is accepting of every one is a good way to start but believes it is important to have a Human Rights Commission as well. The Commission would consist of diverse volunteer

members. Ms. Spoor asked if residents in Kentucky have access to the state Human Resource Commission. Mr. Fisher said they do and that you don't have to be a resident of Kentucky to file a complaint of discrimination if the incident happened in the state. Mayor Mattone asked what the advantage of a local commission would be if residents have access to the state commission. Mr. Fisher replied that they can't be everywhere at once and that it is important to have a local commission comprised of neighbors that are available anytime. He added; the state commission is always available for guidance to local commissions.

Rev. Donald Smith began by saying, in the Pledge of Allegiance; the line that always gets him is 'liberty and justice for all'. He also wanted to emphasize that the city needs a local fairness alliance not to display our faults but to display our righteousness and the good things we are trying to do to protect our citizens and keep them from getting hurt. He said there is no support from the state when it comes to sexual orientation and gender identification; these are not included in Commonwealth law. In 2003, Covington voted to accept an Ordinance with a sexual orientation and gender identity clause. He said the Kentucky Human Rights Commission is understaffed and that local communities need to represent everyone fairly. He added; elected officials need to keep discrimination from happening by bringing about a Local Human Rights Commission.

Mayor Mattone thanked Mr. Fisher and Rev. Smith for attending the meeting. He would like to continue the discussion and get input from residents before presenting any legislation. He sees this as a first step in a series of steps that will show others in Northern Kentucky that our city stands for all of its community members. Mayor Butch Callery, Villa Hills, was unable to attend tonight's meeting but said he would be happy to attend an upcoming meeting to field questions anyone may have.

Mr. Fisher asked to add that the commission also has training for landlords and tenants so each knows what their rights are. He says the city of Covington has only had one lawsuit filed in the past 15 years and does not believe forming a Human Rights Commission will bring forth a lot of litigation.

Mr. Oberjohn asked what type of incident causes a commission to be formed. Mr. Fisher replied that in his experience, he found that you can turn something bad into something positive with the proper training. You can take something that divides a community into something that brings a community together by having residents working with local leaders. Mr. Oberjohn stated that all of us in a general sense support the notion that Park Hills should be a friendly and welcoming city. He believes, however; the more specific, the more disagreement. He believes this has been a struggle with Park Hills. He asked how to get more specific without leaving people out. Mr. Fisher replied that when looking at protected classes, it includes everyone. People need to learn about differences and celebrate them.

Rev. Smith added; it involves meeting with other organizations to make sure you design an Ordinance everyone can live with.

Ms. Zembrodt believes people need to be educated and need to get to know their neighbors. She wonders how passing an Ordinance or Resolution helps educate people.

Rev. Smith replied that if a Human Rights Commission is formed, educational opportunities will occur.

II. Committee Reports - None

III. Old Business

A. Berling Update

Mayor Mattone stated on November 10th they closed the consultant party acceptance. They are looking to schedule a meeting with PDS. Ms. Emi Randall, PDS, expects about 15 consultants. After the Section 106 review occurs it then goes to the Army Corps of Engineers for the permitting phase as it affects the Blue Line Stream on the property.

B. Gateway Update

No plans have been submitted.

C. Trees on private property

Mayor Mattone stated that a couple weeks ago, there were heavy winds leaving about 60 people without power. Ms. Spoor said two trees on Morgan Court fell. Mayor Mattone stated there are three Ordinances in place regarding trees. The Tree Board Ordinance, Nuisance Ordinance and the Imminent Threat Ordinance. Mr. Winslow sent the Mayor and Council a memo last June explaining the steps to be taken for tree complaints. If someone notices a dangerous tree, they should contact the Police Department or a Council member to initiate an inspection. The Mayor reminded everyone that these matters are complaint driven as the city does not have the capacity to address every tree in the city.

IV. New Business

A. Mayor's Group Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, December 9th at 9:00 a.m. at the Crestview Hills City Building.

B. Discussion of Ordinance proposed by Mr. Oberjohn regarding mid-term vacancies for Mayor and Council.

Mr. Oberjohn stated he wants to make a minor change to the existing Ordinance. Council has 30 days to appoint someone when a vacancy exists. If no one is appointed within 30 days, the Governor will make the appointment. As the Ordinance reads now, Council is under no obligation to consider, or acknowledge, anyone who ran in the previous election. This situation happened most recently in 2012 and 2016. Mr. Oberjohn would like to clarify the procedure and add checks and balances by acknowledging these individuals. Council is under no obligation to fill the vacancy with the highest vote getter from the previous election, but believes the public is entitled to hear why their person is not appointed. Mr. Oberjohn's proposal gives first vote to fill the vacancy to the highest vote getter. Council will have an opportunity for discussion and can vote for, or against,

that person. If Council decides not to appoint the highest vote getter, the second highest will then be considered; and so on.

Ms. Zembrodt stated that all candidates had a chance to address Council about why they should be chosen to fill the vacancy and then Council made their decision accordingly. She does not like the idea of having to vote in the order Mr. Oberjohn suggests as Council may have to vote someone down.

Ms. Spoor doesn't have a problem with Mr. Oberjohn's proposal for Council but does not believe it would work for the Mayoral vacancy. She believes bringing in the previous Mayor would be awkward as there are usually only one or two candidates for the Mayoral seat.

Mr. Claypole said during a vacancy in the 90's, it was put out to the public so everyone interested had a chance to be interviewed. He added; he would've liked to have had the chance to discuss this issue before paying the attorney to draft the Ordinance. Mayor Mattone reminded everyone that other proposed Ordinances have been drawn up and presented at Caucus meetings in the past.

Mr. Elkins stated he was involved in the last two vacancies and was not on the winning end of either. He agrees with Mr. Oberjohn in that he believes the citizens' vote was not given the weight it should have and that Council needs to recognize how the people voted.


Mayor Mattone stated the legislative body elects the replacement and that they could possibly reach out to those who ran to see if they are even still interested in filling the vacant seat.

Mr. Oberjohn stated he will give more thought to the Mayoral vacancy.

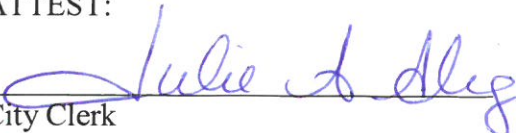
Mr. Claypole stated he would like to have more discussion on the proposed Ordinance.

Ms. Spoor reminded everyone that Park Hills' residents receive free admission to the Behringer Crawford Museum's Holiday Toy Train display on Sunday, December 10th.

8:35 Motion to adjourn from Caucus meeting was made by Mr. Elkins; second by Mr. Claypole


Mayor, Matt Mattone

ATTEST:


City Clerk