

Franklin Township, Portage County  
Zoning Commission Hearing  
September 20, 2018

**Members Present:** Chair Mary Organ, Judy Spencer, Theresa Mullet, Alternates Mekal Banyasz, and Doug Hiestand.

Mrs. Organ asked that Mr. McClure and Mrs. Tadsen be excused. She introduced the new alternate member of the Zoning Commission, Mekal Banyasz.

**Others:** Joseph Ciccozzi, Assistant Zoning Inspector; Jenny August, Administrative Assistant.

**Call to Order:** Mrs. Organ called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

**Minutes:**

Mrs. Spencer moved to accept the minutes as presented from the June 21, 2018 meeting. Mrs. Mullett seconded. Those in attendance voted yes except Ms. Banyasz who abstained. The minutes were approved as presented.

**Discussion Topics:**

**Skill Games**

Mrs. Spencer has been trying to gather information on this topic, but is finding that the rules are very muddled. She has spoken with both Todd Peetz from Portage County Regional Planning, and also Chris Meduri, the township's legal advisor. They are looking for information and will forward anything they get to Mrs. Spencer.

Mrs. Organ said the Ohio Revised Code trumps Franklin Township regulations. This means that if the ORC allows skill games, the township cannot deny them. However, they can be restricted to only certain zoning districts. For example, if the township allowed skill games in C-2 districts, those establishments could be made conditionally permitted, and the Board of Zoning Appeals can apply conditions.

Ms. Banyasz had some knowledge to share regarding skill games. These games are mostly computerized, and appear to be games of chance. Typically, membership to the skill games establishment is required. It is also possible that winnings are paid in tickets that may be traded for benefits such as food and beverages rather than cash. There will be more discussion on this topic at the next meeting.

**Homeless Shelters**

Mrs. Organ said that we would want to be proactive and work on writing regulations for homeless shelters. Possibly they would belong in section 419 or 420. Mrs. Tadsen is working on this and might have information to share at the next meeting. It seems like the best area for homeless shelters to be permitted would be in C1 areas such as SR 59 because of the bus line and also the access to the businesses.

**Medical Marijuana**

Currently, the Trustee's have a moratorium on medical marijuana. We are able to opt out. Mrs. Organ has medical marijuana on the November agenda and will have a lot of information to share with the commission.

**Future Topics for Discussion:**

Assistant Zoning Inspector Ciccozzi said that Zoning Inspector Abell has requested that the Commission define the word "structures". The ZC will try to get this done in the Oct. meeting

**Adjournment:** Mr. Hiestand moved to adjourn at 8:35 with a second from Mrs. Spencer. All Commission members voted yes.

Respectfully submitted by Jenny August, Administrative Assistant

Approved:

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Mary Organ, Zoning Commission Chair