

City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
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Action Minutes

Wednesday, February 22, 2017

8:30 AM

Special Meeting

Larcom City Hall, 301 E Huron St, First floor, north conference
room

Medical Marijuana Ordinance Review Committee

CALL TO ORDER

Derek Delacourt, Community Services Area Administrator, called the meeting of the Medical Marijuana Ordinance Review Committee to order at 8:38 a.m. in the Basement Conference Room, City Hall, 301 E. Huron Street.

ROLL CALL

City staff in attendance included Derek Delacourt, Community Services Administrator; Brett Lenart, Planning Manager; Jacqueline Beaudry, City Clerk; and Assistant City Attorney Kristen Larcom.

Staff and commissioners introduced themselves.

Present 4 - Jason Frenzel, Brian Fenech, Jonah Copi, and Craig Stoller

Absent 1 - Chip Smith

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Frenzel moved, seconded by Commissioner Copi, to approve the Agenda as presented.

City staff noted that Mr. Joffe would not be in attendance to present on types of licenses and local control.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, with the removal of Mr. Joffe's presentation.

NOMINATION AND APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

Commissioner Stoller nominated Commissioner Copi to serve as the Chair of the Committee. Commissioner Fenech supported the motion. On a voice vote, the motion carried and Commissioner Copi took over as Chair of the Committee.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Assistant City Attorney Kristen Larcom spoke about the types of licenses that are now available under the new State law. She stated this Ordinance Review Committee's charge is to review and recommend any changes to the City's existing Medical Marijuana Ordinance, Chapter 95, based upon the new law. Ms. Larcom provided copies of the current ordinance and the new law to the commission.

Ms. Larcom spoke about the new types of licenses under the new State law, including provisioning centers, growers, processors, secure transporters and safety compliance facility. She said a State license is required under the law, effective in December 2017, but the State will only issue licenses based on what has been authorized at the local level.

Ms. Larcom stated if the City chooses to license, they will need to consider what types of facilities and licenses to allow and also determine the fees for each type. She noted that fees could be charged up to \$5000.00.

City Clerk Jacqueline Beaudry also reminded the committee that the current Chapter 95 includes a Medical Marijuana Licensing Board and the committee will need to consider if this board should continue as they review and recommend changes to the ordinance.

1. Legislative History and Update

Sandra McCormick, Executive Director of the Michigan Cannabis Development Association, was present to speak to the committee about the legislative history of medical marijuana in Michigan and next steps to implement ordinance changes in compliance with the new law.

Ms. McCormick stated one of the major issues that is currently being discussed throughout the State is banking and the federal regulations regarding depositing money associated with marijuana in a federal bank. She stated this is a discussion many communities are having right now.

Ms. McCormick identified Weberville and Clare as two cities that may be resources for Ann Arbor as the committee moves forward in its research and discussions.

2. Types of Licenses and Local Government Control

Mr. Delacourt announced that Mr. Joffe would not be presenting at the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Next Steps - Discuss Expectations and Deliverables

Mr. Delacourt stated the City Attorney's Office planned to have a draft ordinance for the committee's review at their next meeting. He asked the committee for direction on the draft.

Commissioner Stoller stated it is important that existing businesses be protected as the rules and regulations change.

Commissioner Fenech concurred. He stated the City's existing ordinance was well thought out and stated it doesn't need to be scrapped, but can just be tweaked to comply with the changes in State law.

Commissioner Copi stated the City should support continued safe access for those in need of medical marijuana. He concurred that the City's existing ordinance is a good model from which to work. He also agreed that existing businesses should be identified and allowed to continue under the new ordinance.

Councilmember Frenzel concurred. He stated it would be helpful to have information on growers and processors and what those licenses might look like. He also asked for information on appropriate zoning and location for the various types of licenses.

Ms. McCormick responded that a secure transporter is required to move product from a grower to a processor, even within the same facility. She noted that zoning is typically the same for all of these licenses.

Commissioner Copi requested reports from the City's Police and Fire regarding any history in the City or known industry issues that may need to be considered.

There was also discussion regarding any possible environmental concerns, selling to non-patients and preventing "diversion" or black market sales.

2. Set Meeting Schedule

Mr. Delacourt and City Clerk Beaudry suggested the committee set a next meeting date and time.

Following further discussion, it was decided that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Benjamin Joffe, a local attorney specializing in medical marijuana, urged the committee to look at other communities and best practices and not to duplicate efforts.

Denny Hayes, 120 N. Fourth Ave., stated he has been involved in Ann Arbor's medical marijuana discussion since the beginning. He urged Ann Arbor to create a model for others, stating there are many patients already being served in Ann Arbor.

Alec Ripple, Tree City Consulting, and the owner of Tree City Health Collective, stated he only serves patients who are over the age of 21. Mr. Ripple stated he is currently working with other lobbyists on this issue, including drafting SOPs, and would like to lend his assistance to Ann Arbor.

Alison Ireton, local attorney, spoke about the current dispensaries operating in Ann Arbor and stated there have not been any nuisance issues.

ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business before the committee, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

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