

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

**MINUTES OF THE
XENIA TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES:**

**LISTENING SESSION
March 27, 2017**

6:00 P.M.

NOTE: These minutes are a summary of the discussion and are not a word for word account of the discussions. The proceedings were electronically recorded. The meeting was held at the Greene County Media Room, 551 Ledbetter Road, Xenia, Ohio. This was a Listening Session advertised on the Xenia Township website within 24 hours of scheduling this meeting.

Chair Steve Combs called the Listening Session to order at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Combs gave the history of HB523. Mr. Combs advised that the Trustees were here tonight to listen to Xenia Township residents make their comments concerning the Medical Marijuana Control Program. We as Trustees have the ability to allow this within the Township boundaries. The three components of this are Cultivators, Processors, and Dispensaries.

We ask that you come to the podium and state your name and address. He stated that anyone wanting to speak does need to be a Xenia Township resident, and please keep your comments to about five minutes.

ROLL CALL: Scott Miller, Trustee; Steve Combs Trustee, Chair; Susan Spradlin, Trustee.

Pastor Greg Delaney, 889 Oakdale Drive, he stated that he is the outreach coordinator for Woodhaven Recovery. His life and job are based on dealing and working with drug addicts. He also is the faith based collaborator for Attorney General Mike DeWine's Opiate Task Force and team for his heroin unit. His concern as a Township resident is that he gets the opportunity to work with a lot of experts in this area, one being Tony Coder, who is part of Drug-free Alliance. Mr. Coder sent him quite a bit of information to share with anyone. One of his concerns with medical marijuana coming into the area is the statement that marijuana does not hurt anyone. He stated that this is not the case. In his field, he sees that marijuana acts as a gateway to heroin addiction. His second point is the statement that no one dies from an overdose of marijuana, this is not true. He stated that he does see quite a bit of toxicity from the edibles, and if someone is dealing legalized marijuana, then they are going to be dealing a lot with edibles. Edibles are designed to look like gummy bears, soda and that kind of stuff. From a father's prospective these tend to be rather appealing and he would hate to see a dispensary providing those in an area where his kid is growing up currently. He stated that there is a ton more in the information packet that he brought with him. He stated that he wanted to mention a statement made by Shawn Rain who was a drug intelligence officer for Ohio's High Intensity Drug Task Force. He met with him on Wednesday to discuss this with him. Mr. Rain's big concern with this issue was with shatter and dabs; these are high intensity THC derivatives. They are used quite often in a medical marijuana context. Mr. Rain stated that this is the next wave heading towards our youth. Mr. Delaney stated that his wife is an oncology nurse specialist, and she stated that it is rare when they would be in a position to prescribe medical marijuana. He stated that anyone can access the information he has with him at drugfree action alliance's website.

Jay Russell, 387 Timothy Lane, he just moved to Xenia in August. He stated that the idea that these types of products could be growing here in the Township isn't good. He stated that he has a teenager and one in college. He stated that he knows that even the local teenagers are already struggling with using marijuana just on their own. He stated that while the people growing this may say that their interest is because of medical purposes, but there is always the residual amount of things that come out that are not just for medical use. Speaking for himself, he does not believe this is the way to go. He is not saying that people should not use it but our area is not the area to be involved in growing and producing this. He stated that he believes this could open up a lot of problems that could come along with it.

Phyllis Blackaby, 170 Outerview Drive, she stated that she does not understand why this would even be a thought to have a medical marijuana place here in the township or any place. She stated that with all the trouble there is, she believes this would just

**XENIA TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
LISTENING SESSION, MARCH 27, 2017**

be encouraging to some to make it all legal everywhere. She believes this will lead to all types of problems. She does not think it should even be considered.

Lou Turner, Bickett Road, he stated that they have children and grandchildren growing up in the area. He stated that he feels that it is not a good thing to have marijuana where you have children. He does not see how it can be grown without someone coming and stealing it. He stated that there are thieves out there that are going to get into it. So, it will take more police to watch these areas. He stated that he thinks because of the children that we should be working to get the children into church. He stated that this is more important to him than growing marijuana in the Township. He can understand why people want to grow it, because it is a big money maker, if it can be done properly. However, money is not always everything that we need and everything that we want.

Ronald Dodge, 229 Bickett Road, he agrees with many who state that this is just a foot in the door. He stated that he has a son that has been clean for 20 years now, but one thing lead to another, and he was on the street. He stated that he remembers when Mike DeWine went to Colorado and when he came back and said that Colorado told him not to pass it. This is just another thing that is going to happen but we do not need it in Xenia Township.

Glenn Blackaby, 170 Outerview, he stated that he has been a resident of Xenia Township since 1963. He wanted to say that the Township has been run very well through the years. The Township has a good name as far as he is concerned. He understands that the money could be good for the Township but the Township will need more police for watching. He stated that he trusts the Trustees to make a decision for the good of the Township.

Bobby Delaney, 889 Oakdale Drive, he stated that this is a great Township. He stated that he went to his doctor and asked what she would do if she had patients that demanded a prescription for medical marijuana. She stated that she would stick to her guns and never think of giving any of her patients something that would be that addictive. He stated that he sees people getting handed out pain killer drugs so easily. He stated he thinks it would be easy for that person to switch to medical marijuana. He stated that the Township should be kept pure, worthy and people want to be here.

Mr. Miller thanked everyone for coming out tonight, and the comments are appreciated. He stated that the Trustees would have liked to see more people.

Mr. Combs stated that there were seven speakers and all seven spoke against it.

Mrs. Spradlin stated that the last session there were people that came from the City of Xenia and they are also interested in what the Township is doing regarding this issue. She stated that she does not know one way or the other on how she wants to go on this issue. Therefore, the Trustees wanted to have the Listening Sessions. This helps the Trustees to make their decision, and do what the Township residents are asking us to do. She stated that she came unbiased, she is gaining information from everyone so that she can make an informed decision. However, she has only heard from people that are against it. She asked for the audience to keep speaking up and she appreciated the voices that she heard tonight. She stated that during the last session a question was asked if the Township would get money for this. She stated that she knows of no money that the Township would be receiving because the only thing the Township collects is property taxes. She stated that this could increase the taxes owed, if there is a business, but in her eye sight is getting \$3.00 versus \$1.00 going to be better for our Township. She stated that she is not here with a decision either way because she does not know right now. There is a moratorium on this, the first one was going to expire, so the Trustees voted for another that will expire in September. This is when the Trustees have to decide if the Township is going to do this or not. She encouraged everyone in attendance to come to the Trustee meetings. She stated that they love to see everyone's faces and hear what everyone has to say, it is very important to them.

**XENIA TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
LISTENING SESSION, MARCH 27, 2017**

Mr. Blackaby asked if anyone had an idea of the population of the Township. Mr. Combs stated that there are over 6,000 as of the last census. Someone asked who is pushing this issue. Mr. Combs stated that he thinks it is primarily coming down from the State.

Mrs. Spradlin stated that she knows one resident that has asked if the Township is going to entertain this issue. She stated that this is so stringent, as far as the requirements for anyone to even get a license, and then if Xenia Township states that it does not allow these then that person cannot get a permit to do this in our area. She stated that the Trustees want to be proactive on this not reactive, so we want to know what our residents have to say and how they are feeling.

It was asked if this would come down to a vote on the ballot. Mrs. Spradlin stated that the State does not have very good guidelines as far as it is going to "this" because they keep changing it. There are changes being made constantly, and therefore she felt the need to keep the moratorium until September.

Mr. Combs stated that it will not come to a vote on the ballot. He felt it would come down to the Trustees and the Zoning Commission to make this decision.

Mrs. Spradlin encouraged everyone to watch the Xenia Township website, because there will be information there, and the minutes from the meetings are there. This way everyone can keep up to date on what is going on in the Township.

It was asked why this would not be on the ballot. Mr. Combs stated that HB523 has already passed. He stated that if it is not in Xenia Township it will be somewhere else, but he does not know where. He stated that this is why the Listening Session are important so that the Trustees can hear what the residents, that elected them, want.

It was asked if the Trustees know of the areas around us that have applied to be a grow area. Mr. Combs stated that he has only heard rumors. There was discussion about the places rumored to want medical marijuana.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Combs moved to adjourn at 6:30 p.m.

Xenia Township Board of Trustees

Date Approved: _____

L. Stephen Combs, Chair

Resolution # _____

Attest:

Scott Miller

Alan Stock, Township Administrator

Susan Spradlin

MEH