

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

**MINUTES OF THE
XENIA TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES:**

**LISTENING SESSION
March 15, 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 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. There is also going to be another listening session on March 27 at 6 p.m.

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; Alan Stock, Township Administrator.

Mr. Ronald Dodge, 229 N. Bickett Road, he read in the paper and understands that this listening session is not for question and answer but designed to hear Xenia Township residents' personal feelings on the topic. He asked why, is it money. Everything seems to be about money these days. Who does this affect, what does it affect...money. He stated that he read that when Dewine went to Colorado before they passed it, Colorado said not to pass it because there were too many issues around it. Colorado told Dewine not to pass it because they had all kinds of issues and points. He understands that right now they are saying medical, but medical leads to recreational. He stated that not every place is recreational but quite a few states are recreational. He asked don't we have enough death from car accidents, overdose, and this is one of those harder things. This is where it starts out. He stated that he could go into detail with his son. The more that you make it available the less safe, and problems can come from it. A lot of problems starting out small and ending up large. He stated that he knows it is medical right now, but down the road it is like a snow ball effect, so the more you make it available the less safe we are no matter where you are, especially driving. He advised that most of the time a person starts with one type and advance to something more potent. People are searching and looking and trying and they think that is the answer. He stated that his opinion, being in Xenia and Xenia Township all these years the jobs are not worth the potential and all the hazards that are caused afterwards. He stated that he lost many family members to cancer and he can see that it could help but for what it is going to cause in the future he thinks it will hurt us. Thank you.

Glenn Blackaby, 170 Outerview Drive, he has been in Xenia Township for 40 years. This is a very good Township; the Trustees have always done a very good job and he would like to keep it that way. His comments would be the same as Ronald. His greatest fear is what things marijuana would bring into our community. He believes it would disturb the Township as it is a quiet place compared to other places. He just wanted to express his consideration what medical marijuana would bring into the Township. He sees it going from medical to the other. He does not see how this could be controlled, and this is his fear. Thank you.

Donald Humphrey, 885 E. Third St., Mrs. Spradlin stated that he could not speak because he is not a Township resident. Mr. Humphrey stated that he has lived in Xenia his whole life and asked why he could not speak. Mrs. Spradlin explained that they are the elected officials for Xenia Township, and they cannot do anything that has to do with Xenia City. She explained that the Township is on the outskirts of the City.

Leigh Russell, 387 Timothy Lane, she stated that she just moved her from Cincinnati in August. She stated that she is a mother of two. She has a great concern. She grew

**XENIA TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
LISTENING SESSION, MARCH 15, 2017**

up in the country and after living in the city she was ready to return. Her daughter used to run cross country at Princeton High School, and she would come home from practice and say that a fellow student came to practice high again. Her friends would say there was no concern because it was just weed. After she moved into her new house she found out that she lived a mile from what is known as heroine highway. She knows that this is about medical marijuana. How will people be kept out of the production facilities. She stated that she was always told that tobacco and drugs would kill her, so why would she want to make something legal that is going to kill her. When it comes to medical marijuana she asked the Trustees to just say no.

Mrs. Spradlin stated that the Trustees have put a moratorium on all this activity, the first one expired in in early March, so we voted for a second one which extends it to September. She stated that the Trustees want to listen to their residents, so that they know what the residents want. This is having been so controversial, the first-time Ohio got to vote on it, it did not pass. The second tie it did pass. So, when you have something so controversial you have people saying yes one time but no the next. She would like to be proactive, we do not want something to come and hit us in the face. When our residents have a problem, we listen to them, when they have a solution we listen to them also. She stated that she is not for this or against it, she is unsure. The House Bill right now the way that it is, there are changes daily. She stated that the Township does not want to be behind the ball on this issue, it wants to stay in front of it and we want to do what our residents want us to do. She stated that they have discussed this and they want the input of the residents to help with the decision. She understands that there are other people out there, and she encouraged them to speak to their City Council. We want our residents to be happy and that is why Xenia Township is a great place. She thanked everyone for coming.

Mr. Miller thanked everyone for coming out, even though it was a light crowd. However, your comments do mean a lot to us. There are members of the Zoning Board here and between them and the Trustees, this is a topic that is in front of us. We appreciate the opportunity to hear from everyone.

Mr. Dodge stated that his son is about 50 years old, but when he was in his twenties he was drinking and then started using marijuana. It was rough to go through. He thinks that it is great that a brand-new resident would stand up and speak. Coming out of the bigger city and really being concerned about the community.

Mrs. Spradlin asked the residents to invite their neighbors. The Trustees want to hear from as many residents as possible. Mr. Combs stated that he was surprised at the turnout, he thought more people would have come out. Mrs. Spradlin stated that they are pleased that even one person showed up to speak.

Mr. Combs stated that there is going to be another Listening Session on March 27 at 6 p.m. It will be here in the media room, he encouraged everyone to come back and bring your neighbors.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Combs moved to adjourn at 6:25 p.m.

Xenia Township Board of Trustees

Date Approved: _____

L. Stephen Combs, Chair

Resolution # _____

Attest:

Scott Miller

Alan Stock, Township Administrator

Susan Spradlin

MEH