COLLABORATIVE MEETING ON "AESTHETIC OVERLAY' OR "DESIGN OVERLAY DISTRICT"

July 10, 2019 7 PM

Lemoyne Planning Commission & Community Development/Parks and Recreation Comm.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM. In attendance were Zach Border, Thomas Bank, Gale Gallo, Gene Koontz, Kasha Griva and Sue Yenchko. Staff included Cliff Carlson, Tom Yurchison, and Cindy Foster. Also attending were Bob Huggler, Paul Kimmel and Rebecca Yearick (CCRA).

Public Comment came from Mr. Kimmel regarding the property at the rear of 540 Bosler Avenue – Woody's LLC. The property is up for tax sale and he'd encourage a buyer to come in, clean it up and maybe make a park out of it since there are currently no parks for kids to play in between the railroad tracks and Lowther Street. It is currently a junkyard and will probably need environmental clean-up for starters.

There was much discussion, and questions and answers about what constitutes an aesthetic overlay (A.O.) and how it differs from the currently existing Development Compatibility Overlay (DCO 550-29). It was suggested that everyone refresh their recollection of all of the elements of the DCO. Many elements of an aesthetic overlay (A.O.) are found in the "Core Community Design Concepts" found in the "Imagine West Shore Comprehensive Plan" document.

Discussion regarding the possible placement of the A.O. ranged from overlaying one block on State Street, to having Third Street from Walnut to Lowther be included. Third Street is highly visible, is the proposed 3rd phase of the Streetscape Plan, is largely commercial and has some at-risk, declining and blighted properties. It might be possible to encourage several anchor properties along Third Street to upgrade their facades/properties and become catalysts for others to follow suit.

The main objective of having an A.O. would be to have design concepts across zoning districts. There is possible funding for façade improvements through the Cumberland Streetview program (note: prevailing wages must be paid under this program).

It was agreed that a walking tour on Third Street should take place to really SEE all of the elements of the street that need upgrading/improvements. Dates will be sent out for members to choose a Saturday this summer to meet for breakfast and do the walking tour.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM. No date was set for a next meeting.