

City of Gardiner
Recreational Marijuana Task Force Meeting
Tuesday., April 4, 2017 at 6pm

Attendance: Chair Terry Berry, Jack McMillian (opponent), Jaime Schorr(opponent), Louis Sigel(proponent), Karen Tucker(opponent), John Shaw (proponent), Curtis Ayotte (proponent) 6:15. Interim City Manager, Anne Davis, Police Chief Jim Toman, and CEO Barb Skelton. Executive Assistant Robin Plourde.

Members of the Public are present.

1. Call to order in Council Chambers: Chair Berry Calls meeting to order at 6pm.
2. Members introduce themselves and indicate proponent or opponent.
3. Vote to approve minutes from 3/21/17. Corrections made on Curtis Ayotte name spelling and the spelling of Mr. Ben Newell's last name, also the city spelling of Gunnison Colorado. Motion made by Louis Sigel to approve minutes, (with changes) second by Jack McMillian. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
4. Public Workshop: Retail: Ben Newell Dispensary Operations Manager, Wellness Connection. Wellness Connection has been in operation for 5 years. When a patient first comes to the facility they get a brief educational overview. They may need help in making a selection. The center has a POS System that keeps track of everything from purchases to legal limits. It is a cash only business so, recently they have been able to partner with Can –Ap which takes money out of checking accounts. Tracking Standards –every sale is serialized- they can track from the plant the product was bought from to who it was sold to and which employee sold it.
Chair Berry- Can you speculate on how retail would work compared to what you are doing? Ben Newell: they may not have as much tracking; they won't be required to legally document. Louis Sigel: Do you foresee operating both retail and medical out of your facility? Ben Newell: Separate facilities, not sure if we can accommodate both. It's difficult to tell how it would work on the differences. Louis Sigel: Do you have topical ointments? Ben Newell: Yes.
John Shaw: Have you had to involve the police? Ben Newell: we have had less than 2 dozen instances, mostly in Portland and mostly with solicitors. Only 2 instances in Gardiner. Some issues with customers –they do have a Code of Conduct that they have to sign, in these instances senior management will speak to them. John Shaw: What kind of clientele do you have? Ben Newell: Very diverse group, non- working to professional working group. John Shaw to Chief Toman: How many incidents at the dispensary compared to the bars in town? Chief Toman: we have only had 2 calls to the Wellness Center. Karen Tucker:

Is our youth prescribed medical marijuana? Ben Newell: Yes, usually for Crone's Disease, cancer, etc. but they only come in once until they are of legal age. They need to have a proxy come in for them. Karen Tucker: Can you explain the process of admitting people into the Center? Ben Newell: The first door is locked and requires staff to let people in. A state issued I.D. is required, even contractors have to be checked in and the I.D. is kept until they exit the building. Jack McMillian: What does marijuana do that prescription drugs don't do? Ben Newell: There are no side effects, no nausea or constipation. Jaime Schorr: What is the price difference between medical and recreational? Ben Newell: It is much less expensive to purchase medical. Jaime: Will your liability change if you open for both medical and recreational? Ben: I don't expect a great deal of difference. Jaime: Are you fully insured? Ben: Yes. Curtis Ayotte: Is there a licensing fee? Ben: yes, it's \$10k annually. Karen: I'm concerned about the youth having the perception that harmful effects have gone down. What do you do to make sure everyone is aware? Ben: We provide education to everyone, it's up to the individual to handle responsibly.

Public audience members:

Charles Doherty: looking for retail space in Gardiner, opening multiple stores across the state. Glad to see Gardiner is looking at this process. Curtis: What are some of the barriers that the City of Gardiner might have that we could help you with? Mr. Doherty: Image, is it high end enough for your town, different prices and professions. Louis Sigel: The City can't do anything until the State makes decisions. Curtis: if the City says no will you be looking at smaller towns? Charles Doherty: Yes, I will move on and pursue other towns. Jaime: So your store would be retail, why would I go to your store? Charles Doherty: more of a personal, one on one relationship. Jaime: Are you going to educate and take I.D.'s? Charles Doherty: We can help with doses; we can grow what you need. Jaime: Do you track purchases? Charles Doherty: Yes, we use Shop-Keep and spread sheets.

Barbara Skelton, CEO: Would like to make it clear the CEO enforces the regulations, does not put them in place. I have issued permits for caregivers and that is public knowledge.

Jason Brossi- I'm a caregiver and also interested in pursuing the recreational side whether it be in Gardiner, Augusta, Auburn or wherever. I think this is a great thing Gardiner is doing. Louis: Open for recreational retail, would you have medical?

Jason Brossi: That has yet to be determined, the medical program had given me a start in this. Louis: Are you going to be manufacturing? Cultivating? What's your business plan?

Jason Brossi: Cultivating. Jaime: Retail recreation- what location? Jason Brossi: Downtown would be ideal, there's traffic, parking.

Jaime: So you're looking for a place to rent? Jason Brossi: Yes.

Chair Berry: So are you going to have all different paraphernalia there, can I get everything there? Jason Brossi: Yes, depending on the laws.

John Shaw: What kind of image are you looking for? Jason Brossi: Rustic.

Curtis Ayotte: Good luck to you, bring in some stiff competition. Karen Tucker:

With your business plan please keep kids safe? Jason Brossi: It's difficult to keep it away from them now. We would have child proof packaging, labels similar to prescription bottles. We will keep track of sales and to whom.

Resident: Katie Coffey: Agrees with retail, it's a money maker for Gardiner. Is Gardiner looking at social clubs? Chair Berry: yes we are considering it.

Chair Berry: At our next meeting we can do fact finding. Interim City

Manager, Anne Davis: the next meeting is April 18th at 6pm.

Motion made by Karen Tucker to ask council for an extension, second by Jaime Schorr. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Motion to adjourn made by Jack McMillin, second by Louis Sigel. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Adjourn at 8:15

Submitted by : Robin Plourde