City of Xenia Cracks New Codes with “Shape Xenia” Site

Xenia, Ohio (December 4, 2015) The City of Xenia Planning and Zoning Department is shaping the future of regulations via an initiative known as Shape Xenia and the initiative’s website, www.shapexenia.com.

Shape Xenia is an initiative to completely rewrite the City’s zoning and subdivision regulations. These regulations govern how land can be subdivided, used and developed. ShapeXenia implements a key recommendation of the X-Plan, the city’s community-based comprehensive plan for growth and development that was completed a little over two years ago. Shape Xenia aims to streamline and increase flexibility to make Xenia more conducive to business development and investment, while ensuring that new guidelines maintain community value, appreciation and functionality.

The Shape Xenia initiative considered the comments and viewpoints of Xenia businesses, landowners and residents through a series of public meetings, online surveys and stakeholder interviews. This process produced the Code Evaluation Report, a review of the City’s current regulations posted on www.shapexenia.com, along with newly drafted regulations based on the findings of the report.

Much of the current content includes drafts and information that covers such topics as various application review procedures, zoning districts and permitted uses, definitions, user-friendly summary tables and graphics. There is also information citing examples wherein City staff may use greater flexibility and latitude to allow certain uses and minor variations without lengthy hearings and review processes.

Recently posted draft sections include:

- **Chapter 1218 General Provisions**: Basic provisions that establish the framework and basis for the code
- **Chapter 1220 Administration and Procedures**: Application review processes and criteria
- **Chapter 1222 Zoning Districts and Principal Uses**: Permitted uses for each zoning district, along with standards specific to certain unique types of uses
- **Chapter 1244 Definitions**: Definitions of terms used in the code
The City will continue to draft additional chapters online as they are completed. The additional drafts will highlight new development standards, and include such topics as parking regulations, setbacks, design standards, signage and other relevant planning and zoning information. The drafts will be posted on www.shapexenia.com throughout this month and into next year as the site continues to evolve. A public meeting will be planned for the first quarter of 2106 to provide an opportunity for businesses, landowners and residents to provide more feedback.

Businesses, residents, developers and the community at large are encouraged to view the new regulations and provide feedback to the City via email, the ShapeXenia Facebook page or the City of Xenia website at www.eXploreXenia.com.