

OTTAWA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

PROPOSED MINUTES

DATE: March 5, 2003

PLACE: Ottawa County Fillmore Complex, Board Room

PRESENT: Betty Gajewski, Robert Rinck, Cornelius VanderKam, Bill Miller, Jim Miedema

ABSENT: John DeGrazia

STAFF: Mark Knudsen, Soonja Hixon

GUESTS: Ryan Cotton, Spring Lake Village Manager; Arlan Meekhof, Olive Township; Phillip Pleune, Coopersville; Asher Pimpleton, Grand Haven Tribune; Chuck Rich, MAC-TV

Call to Order:

Chair Gajewski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was present to do business. Invocation was given by Bill Miller.

Approval of the Agenda:

03-11 Motion: To approve the March 5, 2003 Agenda with the revision/addition of two items under Petitions & Communications: Item No. E, Township Planner Act - Master Plan Review Timeline to be changed to Communication from Port Sheldon Township; add Item F, Allendale Township Parks and Recreation Plan; one item under New Business: Item D, Slate of new members to be appointed to the Friends of Ottawa County Trails & Paths Regional and Steering Committees.

Moved by: Rinck Supported by: VanderKam **UNANIMOUS**

Approval of the Minutes:

03-12 Motion: To approve the minutes of the January 8, 2003 meeting. Robert Rinck noted needed corrections to the spelling of John VanderKooi (was VanderKooz), and Fred Walcott (was Wakott). Also, under Motion 03-07, Public Comments, should read, "Fred Walcott, Ottawa County Farm Bureau, urged the Planning Commission to table the Resolution. He indicated he believed it would be in the best interest of Ottawa County...."

Moved by: VanderKam Supported by: Rinck **UNANIMOUS**

Announcements:

A. Introductions

Chair Gajewski asked members of the audience to introduce themselves. The attendees included the following: Ryan Cotton, Spring Lake Village Manager; Arlan Meekhof, Olive Township; Phillip Pleune, Coopersville; Asher Pimpleton, Grand Haven Tribune; Chuck Rich, MAC-TV.

B. Reports of Meetings Attended

Bill Miller attended the Wright Township Planning Commission meeting.

Cornelius VanderKam attended the NACo Conference in Washington, D.C. One seminar he found particularly interesting was the topic of hydrogen fuel-cell automobiles. He said that the projected date for mass production of these automobiles is year 2010. He also attended the Georgetown Township Planning Commission meeting.

Betty Gajewski attended the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. She said that Parks and Recreation will be using the new terminology "Green Infrastructure" to identify facilities such as parks, greenways and open space. Also, the Nature Conservancy is going to put together a proposal to plant thousands of trees in an effort to help reduce global climate change. Betty said that Ottawa County will be included in this proposal. The Parks & Recreation Commission is beginning to outline a time frame and process for updating the "Open Space Plan" for the year 2005. She said that a deed for Rosy Mound has been transferred to the county from the State.

Jim Miedema attended a meeting on PDR's that was conducted by a Professor from New York University. He said the Professor was involved in Pennsylvania's PDR Program. Jim Miedema said that during the meeting, it was mentioned that the twenty-five year time period is coming up on the PDR blocks of property in Maryland. Jim said it will be interesting to see how they handle this and if the farmers will buy their development rights back at the end of that period.

Robert Rinck has become a member of the Public Transportation Tomorrow (PTT) Committee. The committee is doing a major

corridor study in Grand Rapids for Interurban Transit Partnership (ITP - The Rapid), and the consultant for this study is DMJM & Harris. He attended the Tallmadge Township Planning Commission meeting with Mark Knudsen and was in Washington, D.C. at the NACo Convention where he served on the Transportation & Technology Committee. Robert Rinck said he also attended the Coopersville Planning Commission meeting.

Mark announced that there will be another LinkMichigan meeting on March 25, 2003, at 9:00 a.m. The results of the LinkMichigan survey that was conducted with businesses and residential households, as well as the results of the strategic planning sessions that were held with the business community will be presented.

Presentations:

None

Petitions and Communications:

A. FYI Folder

B. Communication to and from Wright Township Regarding Wright Township's Planning Commission's Request to Review Ordinance Amendment, Section 503, Sliding Scale Lot Splits; Dwellings

C. Communication to and from Georgetown Charter Township Requesting To Review Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance

D. Communication to Grand Haven Township Regarding Protocols Used to Review Land Parcel Rezonings

E. Communication from Port Sheldon Township Regarding Master Plan Updates

Mark indicated that Port Sheldon's Master Plan was the first request the Planning Commission had received since the new "Planning Act" went into effect this year. He noted that the Planning Commission no longer has the option to waive review of Master Plans. It is now mandatory that the Planning Commission review all Master Plan changes to determine if they are consistent with the contiguous local units of government and the County Development Plan. Mark said the review will need to be completed between April 1-May 11, 2003. He indicated that staff will prepare a report for the Planning Commission's April meeting.

F. Allendale Township Parks and Recreation Plan

Mark handed out a letter from Allendale Township regarding their Parks and Recreation Plan. A letter was prepared for the Planning Commission Chair's signature supporting the document and commending the township for their effort in creating an outstanding document.

03-13 Motion: To receive for information Items A-F
Moved by: VanderKam Supported by: Miller **UNANIMOUS**

Public Comments:

Arlan Meekhoff, Olive Township, extended an invitation to the Planning Commission to attend the Olive Township Planning Commission meeting being held on March 11, 2003, at 7:30 p.m. At this meeting, they will have their first reading of the proposed TDR Ordinance. He said they have been working the past two years with the Midwest Land Legacy and a citizen committee to select the “right tools” for the ordinance. Arlan Meekhoff provided a copy of the documents for the Planning Commission’s review.

Ryan Cotton, Spring Lake Township Manager, thanked Mark Knudsen and his staff for their “tenaciousness” in ensuring that the M-104 Corridor Study was moving forward.

Old Business:

A. North/South Corridor Study (Update)

Mark said the first draft report lacked specific recommendations. He noted the study included broad and general concepts while the RFP asked for specific recommendations on how things should be implemented in the Master Plan in these communities, and what standards should be used. A letter was prepared for the consultant to address these issues. For these reasons, the project may be delayed for 45 days.

B. M-104 Study (Update)

Mark provided an update on the M-104 Study and said that Crockery Township has agreed to participate in the study. Additionally, the Road Commission reversed their original decision and will now participate by paying for half of the assessed costs.

C. Ottawa County Planning & Grants Web Page (Update)

Mark said that Sharon has received the new web site software and is beginning to develop the Planning & Grants Department's new web page.

D. Local Planning Commission Meetings (Update)

Mark said some of the meetings with the local units of government had to be rescheduled due to scheduling conflicts. He said that the Planning & Grants Department has received a few good ideas from the local units of government and that it has been very positive experience. He said that the department will be hosting a luncheon meeting with the "professional on-staff" Planners and Zoning Administrators and wants to extend an invitation to the Planning Commission members if they would like to attend.

New Business

A. Lower Grand River Watershed

Mark said that Aaron Bodbyl-Mast is attending the Lower Grand River Watershed meetings. He handed out a spreadsheet and map showing all the watersheds in Ottawa County. He said that it is an inventory of what projects and activities are occurring in these watersheds.

B. PA116 Applications

Mark said the Planning and Grants Department received twenty-two PA116 Applications (Farmland Development Rights Agreement) from the State. He noted that the State is a year behind and that the applications were for the year 2001.

D. Friends of Ottawa County Trails & Paths

Mark handed out a list of individuals to be appointed to the Friends of Ottawa County Trails and Paths. Two additional items discussed were the creating of by-laws and the term of the positions. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the Steering Committee will be assigned the task of creating the by-laws which are to incorporate the term of office.

03-14 Motion: To approve and appoint the members to the Friends of Ottawa County Trails and Paths Regional and Steering Committees.

Moved by: VanderKam Supported by: Rinck **UNANIMOUS**

Adjournment

03- Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Moved by: Rinck Supported by: Miedema **UNANIMOUS**