

OTTAWA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

PROPOSED MINUTES

DATE: May 14, 2003

PLACE: Ottawa County Fillmore Complex, Board Room

PRESENT: Betty Gajewski, Robert Rinck, Cornelius Vander Kam, Bill Miller, Jim Miedema, John DeGrazia

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Mark Knudsen, Soonja Hixon, Paul Sachs

GUESTS: Representative Bill VanRegenmorter; Keri Pell, MacTV; Joanne Marcetti, Grand

Haven Township; Amy Turner, FOX 17; Kent Rubley, Ottawa County Road Commission; Jerry Diekema, Ottawa County Road Commission; Phil and Nancy Pleune; Thomas Dudek, MSU Extension; Chuck Pistis, MSU Extension; Carlos Garcia-Salazar, MSU Extension; John VanderKooi, Woodland Acres; Ed Bader, Blueberry Heritage; Jim Paggeot, Spring Lake

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 Robert Rinck.

Approval of the Agenda:

03-20 Motion: To approve the amended May 14, 2003 Agenda.

Moved by: Rinck Supported by: Vander Kam **UNANIMOUS**

Approval of the Minutes:

03-12 Motion: To approve the minutes of the April 16, 2003 meeting.

Moved by: Vander Kam Supported by: Miedema **UNANIMOUS**

Announcements:

Chair Gajewski asked the members of the audience to introduce themselves. The attendees included the following: Representative Bill VanRegenmorter; Keri Pell, MacTV; Joanne Marcetti, Grand Haven Township; Amy Turner, FOX 17; Kent Rubley, Ottawa County Road Commission; Jerry Diekema, Ottawa County Road Commission; Phil and Nancy Pleune; Thomas Dudek, MSU Extension;

Chuck Pistis, MSU Extension; Carlos Garcia-Salazar, MSU Extension; John VanderKooi, Woodland Acres; Ed Bader, Blueberry Heritage; Jim Paggeot, Spring Lake

B. Reports of Meetings Attended

John DeGrazia attended the Excellence in Training Seminar on GIS Applications on April 30, 2003. He also attended a meeting in Spring Lake Township on "Wetlands Watch," and the Grand Haven Township Planning Commission meeting.

Robert Rinck attended his four local units of government Planning Commission meetings.

Betty Gajewski attended a meeting addressing land use issues in Michigan. She also attended a meeting in the City of Kalamazoo regarding the redevelopment of Brownfield sites. Betty also attended the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting. She reported that the Upper Macatawa project did not receive the \$1 million in grant funding, and therefore some of the projects for restoring land will have to be modified. A bridge was recently lifted by crane over the Grand River at the Pigeon River Greenway. She also reported that the Parks Commissioners will have a retreat to develop strategy on future issues affecting county parks.

Cornelius Vander Kam attended a Homeland Security meeting in Gaylord, Michigan. Issues discussed included providing security to locations such as Consumers Energy and tactics used to track al-Qaida members. He also attended a Fair Housing Coalition meeting in Georgetown Township.

Jim Miedema had nothing to report.

Bill Miller said he met with two students from the University of Guelph in Canada to discuss farmland preservation issues.

Petitions & Communications

A. FYI Folder

B. Correspondence to and from Zeeland Charter Township Regarding PA116 Applications.

03-21 Motion: To receive for information Items A - B
Moved by: DeGrazia Supported by: Rinck **UNANIMOUS**

Public Comments

Joanne Marcetti of Grand Haven Township said that the township has made a commitment to create a Transportation Master Plan. She said that the plan should have a "shelf-life" of 10-15 years when it is completed. Joanne also discussed Consumers Energy's policy of using light fixtures recommended by Consumers in residential areas. Currently, Consumers Energy has no "sharp cutoff" fixtures available. This is of concern to Grand Haven Township because the township cannot control "sky glow." Consumers Energy will not maintain the light fixtures if the township does not use the lamps Consumers provides. Grand Haven Township will be contacting the Ottawa County Planning Commission to ask for their help in making people aware, and to "spur" countywide interest in encouraging Consumers Energy to look into other lighting options.

Presentations:

A presentation was made by Chuck Pistis, Tom Dudek, and Carlos Garcia-Salazar, of the MSU Cooperative Extension Office. The presentation provided a summary of the impact of road salt on trees, blueberries, and ornamental plants in Ottawa County. In particular, the damage is most pronounced in red/white pines and blueberry plants. They also discussed methods of minimizing road salt damage and the use of alternatives to sodium chloride. At the end of the presentation, members of the audience were given time to comment on the issue.

New Business:

A. Road Salt Impacts - Options and Alternatives (Discussion) Special Guest - Representative Bill VanRegenmorter

Representative Bill VanRegenmorter provided input on road salt impacts. He spoke about a bill that was introduced several years ago to conduct a study on the long term effects of road salt damage. The study was intended to include alternatives to sodium chloride with respect to safety, effectiveness, corrosion to vehicles and road structures, environmental issues, and cost. He plans to reintroduce a modified bill in the near future.

B. MiBizWest - Economic Development Newspaper Insert on Eastern Ottawa County (Discussion)

Mark discussed the newspaper supplement in MiBizWest. The insert covered agriculture and manufacturing businesses, local units of government, education, and recreational attractions in Ottawa County. He also discussed the article on the Ottawa County Planning and Grants Department.

C. Myron Orfield Report (Discussion)

Mark provided his viewpoint on the Myron Orfield Report that addressed "social ills with sprawl." He believed the report was based more on observation than on direct correlations. Mark wanted to provide this report for Planning Commission review because it will probably get more attention in the future.

D. West Michigan Strategic Alliance Report (Discussion)

Mark recently attended a conference at Crystal Mountain Resort that was sponsored by the West Michigan Strategic Alliance. The West Michigan Strategic Alliance requested input on a draft of their resulting report to the Michigan Land Use Leadership Council. Mark recommended that a section be placed in the report stating the ideas presented in the report do not necessarily represent a consensus of those attending the conference. He stated that some of the report's recommendations would not be in West Michigan's best interest. He noted in particular the segment that recommended tax base sharing between the local units of government. Mark suggested that the West Michigan Strategic Alliance meet with the local units of government to solicit their comments and feedback before they submit the final report to the Governor.

E. Grand Haven Township's Rezoning Request, Parcel No. 70-07-12-400-002, from Rural Residential to Single Family Residential, R.2.

03-22 Motion: To support Grand Haven Township's Rezoning Request, Parcel No. 70-07-12-400-002, from Rural Residential to Single Family Residential, R.2.

Moved by: Vander Kam Supported by: Rinck **UNANIMOUS**

Old Business

A. North/South Corridor Study (Update)

Mark indicated the consultant will be providing another draft document in 2-3 weeks.

B. M-104 Study (Update)

Mark announced that Mead & Hunt had been selected to conduct the M-104 Study and will begin as soon as MDOT approves a contract.

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

Mark demonstrated how the new Planning and Grants Department web page will look on the computer. He intends to have the new page downloaded and available by the Planning Commission's June meeting.

D. Non-Motorized Pathways (Update)

A meeting was recently held with the Friends of Ottawa County Trails and Paths Regional Committees. At the meeting, the regional committee boundaries were revised and a map of the new boundaries was provided to Planning Commission members.

E. Ottawa County Development Plan

Mark provided a charted timeline depicting the stages for preparing and completing the Ottawa County Development Plan. He anticipates the plan will be completed and approved on or around February 4, 2004.

Adjournment

03-23 Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 9:24 p.m.

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