

**OTTAWA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION  
PROPOSED MINUTES**

DATE: September 3, 2003

PLACE: Ottawa County Fillmore Complex, Board Room

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

ABSENT: Jim Miedema

STAFF: Mark Knudsen, Soonja Hixon

GUESTS: JoAnne Marcetti, Grand Haven Township; Ian Storey, Grand Rapids Press;  
Asher Pimpleton, Grand Haven Tribune

**Call to Order:**

Chair Gajewski called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. A quorum was present to conduct business. Invocation was given by Robert Rinck.

**Approval of the Agenda:**

**03-31 Motion:** To approve the September 3, 2003 Agenda.  
Moved by: Rinck Supported by: Miller **UNANIMOUS**

**Approval of the Minutes:**

**03-32 Motion:** To approve the minutes of the August 6, 2003 meeting with one correction under "Guests", change Leslie Langeland to Lester Langeland  
Moved by: Miller Supported by: Rinck **UNANIMOUS**

**Announcements:**

**A. Introductions**

Chair Gajewski asked the members of the audience to introduce themselves.

**B. Reports of Meetings Attended**

John DeGrazia attended a Spring Lake Township Planning Commission meeting. He said that farmers came to the meeting to discuss a new development that was being constructed near a "working" farm. The farmers wanted to make them aware of their farming practices such as pesticide applications, etc. John informed the Planning Commission members about the scratch and sniff brochure. John said the Spring Lake Planning Commission members were very interested in receiving a copy of the brochure.

Betty Gajewski attended the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. At the meeting, they discussed several upcoming events:

- September 22, 2003, 6:00 p.m. - There will be a tour of the improvements made at Hager Park at Pigeon Creek
- October 16, 2003, 4:00-7:00 p.m. - A ceremony will be held to officially open Hemlock Crossing

The Parks Commission members also discussed the beach closings and their attempts to identify what caused the recent increase E-coli bacteria levels.

Bill Miller attended the Wright Township Planning Commission. The township is in the process of updating its Master Plan.

Cornelius Vander Kam attended a convention at Mackinaw Island for the Michigan Association of Counties. He distributed the scratch and sniff brochures and indicated the brochures were a "big hit".

Robert Rinck attended the conference at Mackinaw Island and reported that Commissioner Vander Kam was elected as the First Vice President of the Michigan Association of Counties. A few of the subjects discussed at the conference include the following:

- HIPAA
- Jail diversion of the mentally ill
- Substance abuse
- Land use and the interstate traveler project

The interstate traveler project is a proposed light rail system that would link all parts of Michigan to reduce travel time. Mr. Rinck said the light rail system would allow passengers to take their car along.

## **Petitions & Communications**

A. FYI Folder

B. Correspondence to and from Allendale Charter Township Regarding Amendments to the  
1996 Master Plan

C. Correspondence to and from Port Sheldon Township Regarding Rezoning of Parcel No.  
70-11-10-100-010

**03-33 Motion:** To receive for information Items A - C  
Moved by: DeGrazia Supported by: Rinck **UNANIMOUS**

## **Public Comments:**

None

## **Presentations:**

Mark provided a presentation on the Ottawa County Data Book. He briefly discussed the content of the data book and provided highlights of the data.

## **New Business:**

A. Correspondence from Steve Witte, Nederveld Associates, Inc. Regarding Reduced Right-of-Way Preliminary Site Condominium Plans for Mason Stables - Jamestown Township, Ottawa County

### **03-34 Motion: To support the preliminary plans for narrower street standards and right of ways at Mason Stables Development in Jamestown Township.**

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

## B. Urban Smart Growth

Mark reported that the Planning and Grants Department received funding in the 2004 budget to conduct an Urban Smart Growth Demonstration Project. He said one village or city will be selected to participate in this project. It will require a 20% local match. Mark anticipates the project will begin in June 2004.

## C. Ottawa County Community Action Agency Summary of Focus Group Findings Fair Housing Issues in Ottawa County

Mark reported that the Community Action Agency conducted a study to review potential fair housing violations in Ottawa County. The study results show that problems are minimal in Ottawa County.

## **Old Business:**

### A. North/South Corridor Study (Update)

Mark reported the project may be delayed due to Sara Schrader's leave of absence.

### B. M-104 Study (Update)

Mark reported that a kickoff meeting was held with the local units of government. A public hearing will take place on September 23, 2003.

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

Mark provided a visual demonstration on the new Planning and Grants web page. He showed the various links and reports that are contained in the web page. Betty suggested that Press Releases should be posted on the web site for review.

### D. Non-Motorized Pathways (Update)

Mark said the Friends of the Ottawa County Trails and Paths Committee will resume their meetings in September.

### E. Ottawa County Development Plan (Update)

Mark reported on the progress of the County Development Plan. He asked the Planning Commission members if a meeting should be held with the local units of government for their input. Betty suggested that the meeting be postponed until a draft document is available for review.

#### F. Right-Of-Way Task Force (Update)

Mark reported that a meeting will be held at the Ottawa County Road Commission offices to discuss two issues. The first issue concerns the Road Commissions refusal to approve any right-of-way projects narrower than 26 feet. The second issue concerns the Road Commissions requirement that an equal amount of open space be designated as a publicly owned park on all standard proposals for narrower streets. Mark said this open space should be maintained and controlled by the subdivision. In addition, he wants to discuss projects that have already been approved and would like to receive an assessment of those projects to determine if they have been successful.

#### G. Citizen Planner

Mark reported that registrations are being accepted to attend the Citizen Planner seminar. He informed the Planning Commission members that they could attend.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.