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**APPROVED  
OTTAWA COUNTY  
PLANNING COMMISSION**

**Wednesday, March 3, 2004 7:00 PM  
Fillmore Street Complex**

**DATE:** March 3, 2004

**PLACE:** Ottawa County Fillmore Complex, Board Room

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

**ABSENT:** John DeGrazia

**STAFF:** Mark Knudsen, Sara Schrader

**GUESTS:** Ian Storey, Grand Rapids Press; Asher Pimpleton, Grand Haven Tribune; Jeff Cunningham, Advance News; Joanne Marcetti, Grand Haven Township

**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 Jim Miedema.

**Approval of the Agenda:**

Motion: To approve the March 3, 2004 Agenda.

Moved by: Rinck                      Supported by: Miller

**UNANIMOUS**

**Approval of the Minutes:**

Motion: To approve the minutes of the February 12, 2004 meeting.

Moved by: Rinck                      Supported by: Miller

**UNANIMOUS**

**Public Hearing:** Ottawa County LinkMichigan Connectivity Plan

Chair Gajewski opened the public hearing on the Ottawa County LinkMichigan Connectivity Plan. Mark Knudsen, Ottawa County informed the Planning Commissioners that the total report is three binders long and available for review in the Planning & Grants Department. Mark provided a brief overview of the project outcomes.

Motion: To approve closing the LinkMichigan Public Hearing.

Moved by: Miedema                      Supported by: Rinck

**UNANIMOUS**

**Announcements:**

A. Introductions

B. Reports of Meetings Attended

Robert Rinck reported that he attended a Road Salt Meeting and the Conservation District Meeting at Tallmadge Township. He also reported that he went to Washington D.C. for a NACO conference. He visited with Representative Ehlers and Representative Hoekstra.

Cornelius VanderKam reported that he attended a NACO Steering Commission Meeting and a Road Salt Meeting.

Betty Gajewski reported that she attended the State Conference on Sustainable Businesses in Michigan and a Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting.

**Petitions and Communications:**

- A. FYI Folder  
There was no FYI Folder distributed.
- B. Letter of Correspondence to and from Wright Township Regarding a Sliding Scale Zoning Ordinance Amendment.
- C. Letter of Correspondence to and from Georgetown Township Regarding Rezoning Request of Parcel Numbers 70-14-16-300-003 and 70-14-17-400-006 from Rural Residential to Low Density residential and Parcel Numbers 70-14-07-400-009 and 70-14-07-400-015 from Agriculture to Low Density Residential.
- D. Letter of Correspondence to John Sandberg from Taylors Falls, Minnesota Regarding Scratch-N-Sniff Brochures.

Motion: To receive for information items B-D

Moved by: Miller

Supported by: VanderKam

**UNANIMOUS**

**Public Comment:**

No public comments were made.

**Presentations:**

- A. Presentation by Gary Smeyers and Sharon Smeyers, Olive Township "Olive Township Child Safety Measures in Zoning."

Gary Smeyers gave a presentation on raising the awareness of child abuse and safety and provided the commissioners with an information packet. Gary and Sharon are asking local units of government to adopt local zoning ordinances which require open environments (i.e., windowed walls with adjoining restrooms), in nurseries and child care facilities. Photographs of this type of nursery was displayed.

The Olive Township Planning Commission supported an amendment to the Permitted Principal Special Uses with Conditions Section in Olive Township's Zoning Ordinance at its February 2004 meeting. The amendment required that:

*If any of the above uses [Public and Private institutions for human care, religion, education and other human social purposes] provide child care facilities or services and those services or facilities are not licensed by the State, then those uses must comply with the following child care security measures:*

a. *All nurseries or playrooms or places where children are located must have windows for viewing of the area.*

b. *All nurseries or playrooms or places where children are located must be adjacent to or located within thirty feet (30') of a restroom.*

According to Mark, the Olive Township Board has not adopted the amendment at this time. A public hearing in Olive Township is scheduled for March and there appears to be support. Gary and Sharon contacted Ottawa County to see if there is anything that can be done at the County level. Mark suggested that Ottawa County send out a letter to the local units of governments providing sample ordinance language on this matter. If more information is needed by the local units of governments they will be directed to contact Gary and Sharon.

B. News Report – Scratch-N-Sniff Brochure Presentation

There was no report because the audio-visual equipment did not work.

**New Business:**

A. Local Planning Commission Meeting Assignments

Mark distributed a chart to the commissioners which lists the date, time, and location of the local unit of governments planning commission meetings. The chart also includes contact information for the local planning commission chairpersons as well as indicates what townships and municipalities the Ottawa County Planning Commissioner are assigned to.

**Old Business:**

A. Grand Haven Township Master Plan Amendments

Mark reviewed the Ottawa County Planning & Grants Department staff report of the Grand Haven Charter Township Southwest Quadrant Sub-Area Plan. Some of the highlighted comments in the report include:

1. The township has received inquires to develop the Southwest Quadrant sooner than originally expected.

B. The township is concerned that splits could occur without the infrastructure to support higher densities. Examples of this infrastructure include: paved roads, municipal water, or municipal sewer.

C. The township is concerned that these type of land splits could threaten the township's character by degrading the area's open space and natural features.

The proposed changes do not conflict with any of the Ottawa County Development Plan tiers. Approval of these amendments is recommended.

Motion: To support Grand Haven Township's Master Plan Amendments.

Moved by: VanderKam                      Supported by: Rinck

**UNANIMOUS**

D. Road Salt Issue (Update)

Mark reported a meeting was held with area farmers and the Ottawa County Road Commission today. A public meeting to gather input is scheduled for Monday, April 26, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Al Vanderberg, Ottawa County Administrator will moderate the public meeting.

E. M-104 Corridor Study (Update)

Mark reported that a draft report has been distributed to the project team for review and that he is pleased with the work the consultant is doing. The recommendations appear to be solid and are very detailed. A meeting with the project partners is scheduled for March 22, 2004 and a stake holders open house is scheduled for March 25, 2004. The study will be completed by June, 2004.

F. Non-Motorized Pathways (Update)

Sara Schrader, Ottawa County Planning & Grants, reported that the Ottawa County Trails Group made a presentation on the Lakeshore Drive trail at the Ottawa County Road Commission meeting on February 12, 2004. About twenty local bicycle enthusiasts showed up at the meeting to show their support. Sara also reported that she attended a meeting with MDOT and the Walker Highland Trails today to discuss extending the Musketawa Trail into Kent County.

G. North/South Corridor Study (Updated)

Mark reported that Ottawa County is supposed to have another draft report completed by Friday, March 5, 2004.

H. Ottawa County Development Plan (Update)

Mark reported that the Planning & Grants Department is proceeding forward with the County Development Plan.

I. Standardized Zoning and Master Plan Maps (Update)

Mark provided a brief overview of the standardized zoning and master plan maps that the Planning & Grants Department has been working on. Mark indicated the recommendations have received positive response by almost every local unit of government.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

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## **Agenda**

1. Call to Order (7:00 p.m.)
2. Invocation
3. Approval of the Agenda for the March 3, 2004 Meeting
4. Approval of the Minutes from the February 12, 2004 Meeting
5. Public Hearing: Ottawa County LinkMichigan Connectivity Plan
6. Announcements (7:20 p.m. 7:30 p.m.)
  - A. Introductions
  - B. Reports of Meeting Attended

7. Petitions & Communications (7:30 p.m. – 7:40 p.m.)
  - A. FYI Folder
  - B. Letter of Correspondence to and from Wright Township Regarding Sliding Scale Amendment Ordinance
  - C. Letter of Correspondence to and from Georgetown Township Regarding Rezoning Request of Parcel Numbers 70-14-16-300-003 and 70-14-17-400-006 from Rural Residential to Low Density Residential and Parcel Numbers 70-14-07-400-009 and 70-14-07-400-015 from Agriculture to Low Density Residential.
  - D. Letter of Correspondence to John Sandberg from Taylors Falls, Minnesota Regarding the Company Used to Create the Scratch-N-Sniff Brochures.

**Motion:** To receive for information Items A - D

8. Public Comments (3 Minutes Per Person) (7:40 p.m. - 7:50 p.m.)
9. Presentations (7:50 p.m. – 8:10 p.m.)
  - A. Presentation by Dick Edmonds and Sharon Smeyers, Olive Township “Olive Township Child Safety Measures in Zoning”
  - B. News Report – Scratch n’ Sniff Brochure
10. New Business (8:10 p.m. – 8:20 p.m.)
  - A. Local Planning Commission Meeting Assignments
11. Old Business (8:20 p.m. – 8:35 p.m.)
  - A. Grand Haven Township Master Plan Amendments

**Motion:** To support/not support Grand Haven Township’s Master Plan Amendments

- B. Road Salt Issue (Update)
  - C. M-104 Corridor Study (Update)
  - D. Non-Motorized Pathways (Update)
  - E. North/South Corridor Study (Update)
  - F. Ottawa County Development Plan (Update)
  - G. Standardized Zoning and Master Plan Maps (Update)
12. Adjournment (8:35 p.m.)