

OTTAWA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Approved Minutes

DATE: January 30, 2006

PLACE: Ottawa County Fillmore Complex, Board Room

PRESENT: Bill Miller, Betty Gajewski, Robert Rinck, Gary Scholten, Cornelius Vander Kam, Jeffrey Wincel

ABSENT: Jim Miedema

STAFF: Mark Knudsen, Soonja Hixon, Shannon McMaster (Intern)

GUESTS: Steven Patrick, City of Coopersville; Kenneth Bush, City of Coopersville; Kent Rubley, Ottawa County Road Commission; John Robbins, Sentinel; Joanne Marcetti, Grand Haven Township; Greg Chandler, Grand Rapids Press; John Nash, Spring Lake Township

Call to Order:

Chair Gajewski called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. A quorum was present to do business. Invocation was given by Bill Miller.

Approval of the Agenda:

06-01 Motion: To approve the January 30, 2006 Agenda with the following amendments:

- Under Discussion Items add “Item D – Land Use and Land Cover Change Study Update”
- Under Action Items correct Item B to read as follows – Revised Resolution Limiting the Ottawa County Road Commission’s Liability for Trees Planted in Road Right-of-Ways Designated as a Scenic Byway”

Moved by: Miller

Supported by: Vander Kam

UNANIMOUS

Approval of the Minutes:

06-02 Motion: To approve the minutes of the December 13, 2005 meeting.

Moved by: Rinck Supported by: Scholten
UNANIMOUS

Election of Officers:

06-03 Motion: To nominate Betty Gajewski as Chair, Bill Miller as Vice Chair, and Soonja Hixon as Secretary.

Moved by: Scholten Supported by: Rinck
UNANIMOUS

Announcements:

A. Introductions

Betty Gajewski introduced members of the audience and Jeffrey Wincel; the new Business/Industrial/Tourism Planning Commission member.

B. Reports of Meetings Attended

Cornelius Vander Kam had nothing to report.

Bill Miller attended the Wright Township meeting.

Betty Gajewski attended the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. She reported the Parks and Recreation Department's Open Space Plan is still undergoing review. A public meeting will be held on February 1, 2006 at the Spring Lake Library to discuss the Plan. Betty also reported the Parks and Recreation staff has been working to identify trails at the North Ottawa Dunes that the public can use to explore the property.

Robert Rinck reported he attended the Quarterly Luncheon meeting at the Grand Valley Metro Council on January 9, 2006. He also attended a joint Grand Valley Metro Council Technical and Policy Committee meeting in Grand Rapids. On January 20, 2006, Robert Rinck attended the Michigan Association of Counties Transportation Committee meeting. One topic discussed at the meeting was tire dumps and the recycling of old tires.

Gary Scholten reported he attended the Zeeland Chamber of Commerce "Eggs and Breakfast" meeting. Gary reported that one item discussed at the meeting was enhancing manufacturing in Ottawa County and sustainable living.

Jeffrey Wincel had nothing to report.

Mark Knudsen reported that Meghann Rauscher was hired as the Transportation Planner. He also reported the North Bank Group will be meeting on February 23, 2006. Information on the meeting will be e-mailed with the weekly Planning and Grants Department newsletter.

C. Urban Smart Growth Meeting – City of Hudsonville (February 13, 2006 @ 6:30 p.m.)

Mark Knudsen reported a meeting will be held on February 13, 2006, at the City of Hudsonville to discuss the Urban Smart Growth Demonstration Project. At the meeting, Michigan State University will present an assortment of digital renderings that was created to realistically illustrate several architectural and aesthetic design proposals for the City of Hudsonville. Nederveld Associates will also provide an overview of the Architectural Design Elements Portfolio that is being created as part of the Smart Growth Project. The Portfolio will be used as a guidebook for local officials, developers, and citizens and will ultimately be incorporated into the City of Hudsonville's rewritten Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance.

Presentations:

A. Shannon McMaster (Intern) – Build Out Analysis Presentation

Shannon McMaster provided a brief overview of the Build Out Analysis that was completed for the City of Coopersville. The build out analysis was created using CommunityViz software. The software package utilizes existing land use density requirements and population projections to calculate future development potential. The software also detects what impact future development will have on watersheds.

B. Spring Lake Township Bull's Eye Planning Award

06-04 Motion: To award the Ottawa County Bull's Eye Planning Award to the Spring Lake Township Planning Commission in recognition of their innovative Wetlands Ordinance.

Moved by: Scholten
UNANIMOUS

Supported by: Vander Kam

C. City of Coopersville Bull's Eye Planning Award

06-05 Motion: To award the Ottawa County Bull's Eye Planning Award to the City of Coopersville City Manager and Council Members in recognition of the innovative 68th Avenue/Randall Street Roundabout Design.

Moved by: Rinck
UNANIMOUS

Supported by: Scholten

D. Ottawa County Road Commission Bull's Eye Planning Award

06-06 Motion: To award the Ottawa County Bull's Eye Planning Award to the Ottawa County Road Commission in recognition of the innovative 68th Avenue/Randall Street Roundabout Design.

Moved by: Scholten
UNANIMOUS

Supported by: Vander Kam

Petitions & Communications:

A. FYI Folder

Betty Gajewski reported she read an article regarding wind turbines in Michigan and was wondering if turbines will be built in Ottawa County. She asked if this issue could be included as an agenda item at a future Planning Commission meeting. Gary Scholten said the Planning Commission should discuss whether they are in favor of, or against wind turbines zoning in Ottawa County.

06-07 Motion: To receive for information Item A

Moved by: Scholten
UNANIMOUS

Supported by: Vander Kam

Public Comments:

Joanne Marcetti, Grand Haven Charter Township Supervisor, reported the township completed a project priority list for the next two years. One item the township will be addressing is Walmart. Also, the township will begin updating their Master Plan, Visioning Strategic Plan, and the Parks and Recreation Plan. Joanne asked Mark if the Planning and Grants Department has plans to create a build-out analysis for Ottawa County. Mark said the Planning and Grants Department would like to use the CommunityViz software for this purpose, but due to the number of current projects, a strategy to complete this task has not yet been devised. Mark said he will keep Joanne's question in mind and will provide updates in the future.

Action Items:

- A. Wright Township Rezoning Request of Parcel Number 70-06-34-400-024 and Parcel No. 70-06-34-300-004 from Agricultural (AG) to Rural Agricultural (RA)

06-08 Motion: To support Wright Township's Rezoning of Parcel No. 70-06-34-400-024 and Parcel No. 70-06-34-300-004 from Agricultural (AG) to Residential Agricultural (RA)

Moved by: Scholten Supported by: Vander Kam
UNANIMOUS

- B. Resolution Limiting the Ottawa County Road Commission's Liability for Trees Planted in Road Right-of-Ways Designated as a Scenic Byway

06-09 Motion: Gary Scholten motioned to table the Resolution requesting the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners to pursue legislation that would limit the liability of County Road Commissions for trees that are planted in road right-of-ways designated as a Scenic Byway, until the February 27, 2006 Ottawa County Planning Commission meeting. The recommendation to table this motion came after Kent Rubley requested to present the Resolution to the Ottawa County Road Commission.

Moved by: Scholten Supported by: Wincel
UNANIMOUS

Discussion Items:

A. Local Planning Commission Meeting Assignments

In the past, each Planning Commission member was assigned to attend a local unit of government Planning Commission meeting. Mark Knudsen asked if the members would like to continue with the assignments or would they prefer a copy of the meeting schedule for each member to choose their own meetings. After a brief discussion, the members opted to select their own meetings to attend.

B. Environmental Data Book - Table of Contents

At a previous Planning Commission meeting, Mark provided a copy of the Table of Contents for the Environmental Data Book. He requested each member to review the Table of Contents and provide recommendations for other environmental features that should be addressed in the Environmental Data Book.

Betty Gajewski said the data book could be a useful tool in preparing master plans and recommended highlighting data that changes frequently and a time frame in which the data is due to expire. She said by providing expiration dates the local units of government will be confident they have the most up-to-date information when preparing their Master Plan.

Jeffrey Wincel asked if wind power should also be addressed in the environmental data book. Cornelius Vander Kam recommended a cross reference to Environmental Protection Agency requirements be provided in the data book such as air quality. He said this would be helpful in case more detailed information is needed at the national level. Mark Knudsen said he will discuss their recommendations to staff and will provide an update at the next Planning Commission meeting.

C. Lakeshore Drive Paved-Shoulder Measurements

Mark said he received several inquiries about the Lakeshore Drive paved shoulder lines being reduced. He reported Paul Sachs from the Planning and Grants Department went out to measure the paved shoulder lines and that they were not reduced, but simply moved to reflect the correct measurement of four feet.

D. Land Use and Land Cover Change Study Update

At the last Planning Commission meeting, Betty Gajewski recommended the Grand Valley State University study entitled “An Analysis of Land Use and Land Coverage Change 1978-1992”, be updated. This study contained information on land use and growth projections for Ottawa County. The members discussed several options to fund this project.

Mark Knudsen reported the county does not have the funding at this time to update the study. He also contacted several local units of government to see if they would be interested in sharing the cost, but they too expressed concern with funding issues. Mark said he would have staff research grants that may be available to fund this study.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.