

OTTAWA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Approved Minutes

DATE: June 26, 2006

PLACE: Ottawa County Fillmore Complex, Conference Room A

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

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Mark Knudsen, Soonja Hixon

GUESTS: None

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:

06-26 Motion: To approve the June 26, 2006 Agenda with the following amendments:

- Under Petitions & Communications add “Item F” – Letter of correspondence to Georgetown Township dated June 26, 2006, regarding proposed rezoning of Parcels #70-14-17-100-008, 70-14-17-100-009, and 70-14-17-100-010
- Under Petitions & Communications add “Item G” - Olive Township’s Adopted Resolution supporting Ottawa County Planning Commission’s Resolution encouraging the passage of legislation that would limit the potential liability of the Ottawa County Road Commission for trees that are planted within the right-of-ways of scenic corridors
- Under Action Items change “Item B Tree Legacy Committee” to read as follows:

Motion: To create and formalize a joint Tree Legacy Subcommittee in conjunction with the Parks & Recreation Commission and appoint the following individuals as members of the committee for the purpose of making recommendations to maintain and improve the aesthetic beauty of tree canopies and tree lines along scenic roads in Ottawa County.

Gretchen Fisher, Holland Township Citizen
Kent Rubley, Managing Director, Ottawa County Road Commission
John Nash, Supervisor, Spring Lake Township

Karen McCarthy, Area Manager, Consumers Energy Company
Jim Blekicki, Distribution Manager, Grand Haven Board of Light & Power
Betty Gajewski, Chair, Ottawa County Planning Commission
Jeffrey Wincel, Ottawa County Planning Commission

Moved by: Rinck Supported by: Miller
UNANIMOUS

Approval of the Minutes:

06-27 Motion: To approve the minutes of the May 22, 2006 meeting.

Moved by: Miller Supported by: Rinck

UNANIMOUS

Announcements:

A. Introductions: There were no presenters to introduce at the meeting.

B. Reports of Meetings Attended:

Jim Miedema reported he attended Grand Valley Metro Council's "2006 Growing Communities Conference – Prospering Through Partnerships".

Robert Rinck reported Governor Jennifer Granholm has signed the "Local Jobs Today" plan. The plan will provide grants and loans to cities, counties, and local transit agencies, to help enable them to take advantage of available federal transportation funding to create more than 7,100 jobs in Michigan in 2006 and 2007. He also attended the Road Salt Committee meeting on June 5, 2006. He said the wells tested for salt levels did not provide useful data due to the warmer winter this past year.

Betty Gajewski attended the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. The Parks Department is trying to determine how the Weaver house in Pine Bend Park can be utilized. They decided to furnish the house with pre-World War II items. Betty also reported Memorial Day weekend was the busiest the Parks Department has seen in recent years due to the extremely hot weather.

Bill Miller reported Kent County's infestation of the Emerald Ash Borer is "running rampant". He advised individuals to contact a local forester to determine how to stop the infestation from spreading to their trees. He also attended the Purchase Development Rights (PDR) meeting.

Gary Scholten had nothing to report.

Mark Knudsen reported the On-Staff Planners meeting scheduled in September will be postponed due to a scheduling conflict with the planners. The annual fall conference for the

Code Officials of Michigan is being held that week. Another date to schedule the meeting will be selected soon.

Presentations:

None

Petitions & Communications:

- A. FYI Folder
- B. Environmental Billboards
- C. Letter of correspondence from John Hansen, Assistant to the Village Manager, Spring Lake Township, dated April 14, 2006 regarding Standardized Land Use District Titles and Colors for Master Plan and Zoning Maps
- D. Letter of correspondence to Chester Township, dated May 2, 2006, regarding the proposed PA 116 Termination of Agreement for Parcels #70-01-32-300-034 and #70-01-32-300-022
- E. Letter of correspondence to Jamestown Township, dated May 23, 2006, regarding the proposed Jamestown Township General Development Plan
- F. Letter of correspondence to Georgetown Township dated June 26, 2006, regarding proposed rezoning of Parcels #70-14-17-100-008, 70-14-17-100-009, and 70-14-17-100-010
- G. Olive Township's Adopted Resolution supporting Ottawa County Planning Commission's Resolution encouraging the passage of legislation that would limit the potential liability of the Ottawa County Road Commission for trees that are planted within the right-of-ways of scenic corridors

06-28 Motion: To receive for information Item A - G

Moved by: Miedema Supported by: Rinck

UNANIMOUS

Public Comments: None

Action Items:

- A. Grand Valley Metro Council's (GVMC) Home & Building Association of Greater Grand Rapids Vision Statement on Residential Density

06-29 Motion: To not support Grand Valley Metro Council's (GVMC) Home & Building Association of Greater Grand Rapids Vision Statement on Residential Density as written based on the following reasons:

- Poorly written
- Lack of clarity/subjective
- Fails to address social and economic science research regarding the negative social impacts of too much density. The document should be balanced between social impacts and land use issues
- It has a lot of assumptions which have no data or facts which support the assumptions
- Does not address the details or importance of “transportation networks”
- No vision is provided, it is more of a policy statement
- The Planning Commission commented that the drafters of the document would have to start over before they could support the Vision Statement, and suggested they obtain input from a wide variety of local planning commissions.

Moved by: Vander Kam Supported by: Scholten

UNANIMOUS

B. Tree Legacy Committee

06-30 Motion: To create and formalize a joint Tree Legacy Subcommittee in conjunction with the Parks & Recreation Commission and appoint the following individuals as members of the committee for the purpose of making recommendations to maintain and improve the aesthetic beauty of tree canopies and tree lines along scenic roads in Ottawa County.

Gretchen Fisher, Holland Township Citizen

Kent Rubley, Managing Director, Ottawa County Road Commission

John Nash, Supervisor, Spring Lake Township

Karen McCarthy, Area Manager, Consumers Energy Company

Jim Blekicki, Distribution Manager, Grand Haven Board of Light & Power

Betty Gajewski, Chair, Ottawa County Planning Commission

Jeffrey Wincel, Ottawa County Planning Commission

Moved by: Wincel

Supported by: Rinck

UNANIMOUS

Discussion Items:

A. Ottawa County Wireless Broadband Initiative (Update)

Mark Knudsen reported the wireless demonstration in Allendale Township should be ready in the next two weeks. Broadbreeze is currently working with Grand Valley State University to correct a tower problem (structurally not strong enough to support Broadbreeze’s equipment). Mark said he has received several comments about poor customer service response. He would like to have a meeting in the next three weeks with Broadbreeze and Jamestown Township officials to address these concerns. Mark would like to conduct a customer satisfaction survey in the near future.

B. FEMA Acquisition – Robinson Township (Update)

Mark reported the FEMA Grant was almost lost due to the acquisition of some properties in the flood zone area by the Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT). FEMA said the acquisition changes the scope of the project, therefore the grant would have to be resubmitted. Mark said a conference call was held with officials from FEMA and Ottawa County to resolve this issue. After the call, FEMA assured the acquisition of property from MDOT would not affect the grant.

C. Standardized Land Use District Titles and Colors for Local Government's Master Plan and Zoning Maps (Update)

Mark reported Chris Clement is continuing to meet with the local units of government to get the standardized titles and colors adopted. A majority of the local units who have yet to adopt the standards said they would when they update their Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance. Robinson Township is the only local unit of government who is not willing to adopt the standards.

D. Excellence Through Training Program, Spring 2006 Seminar, "The Michigan Zoning Enabling Act of 2006", Tuesday, June 6, 2006, 7:00-8:30 p.m. (Update)

Mark reported a record-breaking crowd (98 participants) attended the Excellence Through Training Program on June 6, 2006. Mark said he received positive feedback from the participants regarding the training seminar. The Planning and Grants Department is starting to put together a fall training seminar. Mark asked for suggestions on topics that could be addressed at future training seminars.

E. Urban Smart Growth (Update)

Mark reported there has been a small setback in the Urban Smart Growth Demonstration Project. He recently learned that Nederveld and Associates has laid off several engineers, including Terry Tromp, the engineer who was handling the project with the City of Hudsonville. Mark said Terry was a very conscientious and diligent engineer and had concerns regarding the engineer who will be assigned to replace Terry. Mark said he would be meeting with representatives from Nederveld to address this issue.

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.