



**Washtenaw County
Office of Strategic Planning**

**Planning Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 18, 2009**

Members Present

Bergman, Blackmore, Blistein, Dopkowski, Gray (excused), Lewis, Pratt, Schwartz, Walz

Members Absent

Bobrin (excused), Callan (excused), Godek (excused), Kelly (excused), Nystrom (excused), Smith (excused), Solowczuk (excused)

Staff Present

Brinkman, Denig, Kowalski, Milton-Pung

Guests Present

Marsha Ennis

Call to Order and Roll Call

Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Roll Call was taken; since there was no quorum the next item became "New Business." A quorum was established at 6:10 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

After the Aerotropolis presentation, Pratt moved to approve the minutes from the April 27, 2009 meeting, Bergman seconded and the motion carried.

Approval of Agenda

Blackmore moved that the agenda be approved as presented, Bergman seconded and the motion carried.

Public Comment – none

Report of the Chair – none

Old Business – none

New Business

Aerotropolis Presentation

Marsha Ennis, of the Aerotropolis Corporation, gave a presentation explaining the history and purpose of the Aerotropolis project. The project officially began in May of 2007, when a private-public task force was established. The idea, however, has been investigated for several years. Goals for the project include creating connections for aviation-based businesses in the areas around and between Detroit Metro and Willow Run airports. The Detroit area has a unique situation in which a great deal of undeveloped land surrounds the two airports; hopefully this project will encourage economic development in an efficient way. There are seven communities around the airports that are involved.

After this presentation, minutes and agenda were approved.

Conservation & Historic Preservation Easements Resource Paper and Presentation

Terry Brinkman and Melissa Milton-Pung gave a presentation on the ways that Conservation and Historic Preservation Easements can be used together to reach preservation goals. In their resource paper they detailed tools that Local Units of Government (LUGs), Nonprofits and Counties can utilize. Staff has recently noticed a trend of both types of preservation happening on the same property, specifically in rural situations. Brinkman noted that Conservation easements are a common tool to protect natural, agricultural and cultural resources – and that they can be used in conjunction with Local Historic Districts as well as the National/State Register of Historic Places to preserve both structures and the land surrounding them. He detailed concerns, including the possibility of difficulty in obtaining a mortgage if the residential structure is within a conservation easement. Benefits come to the community as well as the property owner. There are three examples of land and historic preservation combinations in Washtenaw County.

Milton-Pung detailed options with Historic Preservation Easements, Local Historic District designation and National/State Registry of Historic Places. Ultimately, there are four combinations of tools – a historic preservation easement by itself, a historic preservation easement in combination with a conservation easement, a local historic district or national/state register of historic places designation with a conservation easement on the same property, and a local historic district or national/state register of historic places designation with a conservation easement on adjacent properties. The resource paper will be available online.

Report of the Director of Community Planning

Denig distributed the PAB Election Policy, a final version of which had not yet been distributed to the PAB although it was approved in 2008. Additionally, staff is working on setting up meeting dates for the Comprehensive Plan Update and Annual Planning Workshop Committees.

Other Items for Discussion

Regional Group and Outside Agency Updates

Kelly was absent, but Denig reported that CAPT/DART received a LIAA grant to look at regional opportunities.

Dopkowski reported that Larry Kaufman of DTE will be making a presentation on energy efficiency at the next MORE meeting.

Lewis reported that the local governments involved in SWWCOG are working on budgets, and that the resurfacing of M-52 has been postponed to spring of 2010.

Pratt noted that the most recent WMA meeting was cancelled.

Brinkman reported that the most recent ALPAC meeting was cancelled, but they will be contracting with the Legacy land Conservancy to staff the group and monitor easements.

Walz reported that the Board of Public Works met at the Salem Township landfill, and that they are proposing a modification plan. There are currently 10-16 years left of landfill capacity. She also passed out an article from the New York Times regarding regionalism.

Gray reported that the USS Washtenaw County artifacts will be put on display outside of the County Clerk's office – this was made possible in part due to some donations from veterans. Also, the first Native American Trail marker will be dedicated on June 28 at Parker Mills.

Blackmore reported that the Ann Arbor-Detroit and WALLY commuter trains are supposed to be up and running by October 2010, although they are still seeking funding. The National Register published rules for application for \$1.5 billion in discretionary funding. Additionally, there will soon be a statistically sound survey going out to County residents regarding transportation. WATS is also working on updating their long-range transportation plan, and there will be meetings throughout the County for input.

Anne Williams has resigned from the PAB, and therefore Denig will be contacting the Workforce Development Board to see who will be appointed in that spot.

Public Policy News

Blackmore reported that there is legislation up for approval at the state level as related to transportation funding. They are considering a wholesale gas tax as well as increasing the vehicle registration fee and driver's license registration fee.

Committee Reports – none

Public Comment – none

Adjourn

Blackmore moved to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. and Pratt supported.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the **Annex Large Conference Room**.