



Washtenaw County Office of Strategic Planning

Planning Advisory Board Meeting Minutes Monday, March 23, 2009

Members Present

Blackmore, Blistein, Dopkowski, Godek, Gray, Lewis, Nystrom, Pratt, Smith, Solowczuk, Walz

Members Absent

Bobrin (excused), Kelly, Williams (excused)

Staff Present

Denig, Kowalski, Milton-Pung

Guests Present

Tamara Real

Call to Order and Roll Call

Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll Call was taken there was a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

Blackmore moved to approve the minutes from the February 23, 2009 meeting with the small change of adding “of” at the bottom of page 2, Smith seconded and the motion carried.

Approval of Agenda

Blackmore moved that the agenda be approved as presented with the one change that “Election of Officers” be moved to under Agenda Item X.c. Godek seconded and the motion carried.

Public Comment – none

Report of the Vice Chair – none

Old Business – none

New Business

Freedom Township Master Plan Amendment

Milton-Pung reported that this amendment was written specifically to make the Master Plan be in compliance with the new Planning Act. They may take this as their own master Plan or move forward with a joint master plan through the Manchester Community Joint Planning Commission – this has not been decided. A major component is the creation of the Pleasant Lake/Freedom Lake District, which allows for agricultural and natural areas protections and is in line with the draft Manchester Community Joint Planning Commission’s Pleasant Lake subarea plan. Additionally, the Township plan meets four of the five requirements for participation in the state PDR program. PAB members raised questions about transportation, and staff noted that they can do a full transportation review once their full Master Plan is adopted or when they adopt the MCJPC plan.

Blistein asked about wind energy, and Denig noted that while energy is not a portion of the Comprehensive Plan for Washtenaw County, staff can include comments related to wind energy as well.

Blackmore moved that the amendment be recommended for approval by the PAB and moved forward to the Board of Commissioners, Solowczuk seconded and the motion carried.

Washtenaw County Cultural Master Plan Presentation

Tamara Real of the Arts Alliance made a presentation on the process and results of creating a Washtenaw County Cultural Master Plan. The purpose of the Plan is to work together to achieve common goals, and the Arts Alliance has a close working relationship with the County. She has been making presentations to groups all around the County.

Report of the Director of Community Planning

Denig asked to form an Annual Planning Workshop Committee. Godek, Smith and Blackmore volunteered to be on the committee. The workshop will be either October 22 or 29.

Additionally, Denig noted that the PAB 5-year Comprehensive Plan Update Committee will be scheduled to begin meeting in May.

Other Items for Discussion

Regional Group and Outside Agency Updates

Dopkowski reported that Terry Brinkman gave a presentation at the most recent MORE meeting, and the state senator for that region, Randy Richardville, will be at the next meeting.

Godek reported that SSC is applying for a LIAA grant, getting resolutions out to the local boards of trustees to get the application processed.

Lewis reported that two townships, Lodi and Freedom, are celebrating their 175-year anniversary. Also, there was a presentation from the Sheriff and a cleanup day is scheduled for May 2. Manchester Village is having a problem with too many deer, and they also discussed wind energy. They have issued the first wind generator permit to an individual in Sharon Township.

Pratt reported that WMA has been discussing shared services, specifically around fire services and dispatch. They would like to combine EMT and Fire into one facility – this will need to be coordinated through the Sheriff. They also had a presentation on the Ann Arbor Region Success Plan. They are looking for a federal funding source for economic development, creating an economic development plan for the larger region. Ypsilanti Township has passed a resolution to provide funding and participate in Aerotropolis. Additionally, Ypsilanti Pride Day is May 16.

Milton-Pung reported that the MCJPC plan is moving along – they hope to wrap up the last two chapters of the conventional section at the next meeting. They are also talking about a growth transition area and planning to execute the Joint Planning Agreement.

Walz reported that May 2 is the spring cleanup day. Also, the Dexter Wylie School will be applying to be a “Green School” and the BPW will be discussing a possible landfill expansion. The Waste Knot Awards will be April 23 at Weber’s. Household Hazardous waste Saturday collections start April 4. Additionally, Bridgewater Township put in a new wastewater treatment plant, with 70 household, and each household pays \$120 a month for water treatment.

Gray reported that there will be a ceremony to install the first sign noting an Indian trail at Parker Mills on June 28.

Solowczuk reported that WCPARC did not pass a resolution to fund the renovation of the Rawsonville School. They have come up with a parks prediction document for 20 years. Some gold courses have recently become available, but WCPARC is unlikely to purchase them.

Nystrom reported that the 2009 business numbers are on pace with those from 2008, but that talent employees have noticed a larger amount of desperation among job seekers. A few developments are coming in – Quantum Learning and Mercedes will create a few hundred jobs.

Blackmore reported that WATS has been working on the stimulus package, and will likely get a small amount of funding through that. There is a great deal of reporting that must go into projects related to the stimulus money as well as deadlines for spending the money. The Chair of the Transportation Committee, Pam Byrnes, will be bringing up transportation funding again. WATS is also trying to implement the Transit Plan, presenting it to local communities. It must be updated every 4 years.

Callan reported that the Urban County is also working to spend federal stimulus money and hoping to receive more. Most of the money is related to foreclosure reclamation, and will be used to demolish, rebuild, rehab and resell foreclosed-upon properties, mostly in Ypsilanti and Superior Township.

Public Policy News
None

Election of Officers

Gray reported that the elections committee is recommending that Bill Lewis be chair, Rachel Blistein be First Vice Chair and Bob Dopkowski be Second Vice Chair. Additionally, the committee recommended that Bill Lewis be the PAB representative to ALPAC and Steve Solowczuk be the PAB representative to Parks and Recreation. The Nominating Committee did not make a recommendation for representative to the HDC. Solowczuk moved that Chuck Gray be recommended as the PAB representative to the JHDC and Dopkowski seconded.

Blackmore moved to accept and close nominations, Solowczuk seconded and the motion carried.

Committee Reports – none

Public Comment – none

Adjourn

Solowczuk moved to adjourn at 7:51 p.m. and Pat Kelly supported.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the **Annex Large Conference Room**.