



**Washtenaw County  
Department of Planning & Environment**

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**Planning Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, January 28, 2008**

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**Members Present**

Blackmore, Blistein, Bobrin, Dopkowski, Gartin, Gray, Grewal, Kelly, Lewis, Lovejoy-Roe, Meyer, Solowczuk, Walz, Williams

**Members Absent**

Callan, Smith

**Staff Present**

Denig, Kowalski, Lenart, Scholl

**Guests Present**

Paul Montagno, Chris Brown

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

Grewal called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Roll Call was taken and quorum was met.

Notary Janet Gilkey administered the Oath of Office to all members, excluding elected officials.

**Approval of Minutes**

Gray moved to approve the minutes from the December 17, 2007 meeting, Solowczuk seconded and the motion carried.

**Approval of Agenda**

Blackmore moved to approve the agenda, Solowczuk seconded and the motion carried.

**Public Comment – none**

**Report of the Chair – none**

**Old Business – none**

**New Business**

Pittsfield Township Master Plan Amendment Review

Mike Scholl discussed the Master Plan Amendment, which includes the reclassification of the Sutherland-Wilson Farmstead, reclassification of existing roads, and adoption of the State Road Corridor Study. The State Road Corridor Study creates a corridor transportation plan, including recommendations of expanding to a four-lane boulevard, a five-lane cross section and three lane cross section at various parts of the road. It would also include some fixed-use transit service and pedestrian access. Planning staff has made some minor suggestions within a staff report, encouraging transit-oriented development, making the corridor more pedestrian-friendly, and encouraging bus use. Lenart noted that the new staff recommendations encourage more of a

transit-oriented center, as this corridor is very employment-dominated and therefore important to economic development. Congestion due to the employment-dominated nature of the corridor is the major reason that the road needs to be expanded. Paul Montagno of Pittsfield Township thanked the PAB for looking at the plan.

Blackmore asked that “five lane boulevard” and “three lane boulevard” be corrected to “five lane cross section” and “three lane cross section.” She also noted that this is an important move for the Township. Gray noted that in the future it might be good to have input from the Ann Arbor airport as well, and asked that an extra “the” be removed for clarity.

Solowczuk moved that the Master Plan amendment be recommended for approval to the BOC with the suggested corrections, Lewis seconded and the motion carried.

#### PAB Binders and New Member Orientation 101

All of the PAB members and staff introduced themselves. Denig went through the newly issued binders and asked that members bring any incorrect member information to the attention of staff. She also noted that staff is open to process improvement, and PAB members are welcome to share their thoughts on items included in the binder or to be added.

#### 2007 Annual Local Government Planning Workshop Report

Denig noted that the report on results from the workshop were included in the agenda packets, and noted that that attendance had been heavily skewed toward townships (based on population). Therefore, the results may not reflect the general consensus of representative from all parts of the County. She asked PAB members to consider if it would be good to focus on engaging all local governments at the next workshop, and suggested creating a subcommittee of members to focus on the workshop early in the year.

#### 2008 – What Are Our Opportunities and Challenges?

Board members brainstormed some of the opportunities and challenges facing the PAB in the coming year. The suggestions were compiled into a document that will be distributed to the PAB at a later date.

#### Nominating Committee

- PAB Officers
- PAB Representatives: Parks & Recreation Commission, Historic District Commission, Agricultural Lands Preservation Advisory Committee
- Gartin, Kelly and Blackmore volunteered to be on the nominating committee. They will have a slate of officers and representatives ready for the February 25 meeting.

#### **Report of the Director of Planning Services**

Patricia Denig announced that MSU Extension will be have a Citizen Planner session on February 13 addressing risk management and encouraged PAB members to attend. Also the new Citizen Planner seven-week course will be hosted by Washtenaw County MSUE this year and will include a session on “Working Across Boundaries.” The Citizen Planner session starts April 10. Also, an article on Smart Growth written by Mandy Grewal was included in this month’s packet.

**Other Items for Discussion**

Public Policy News

None

**Committee Reports** – none

**Public Comment** – none

**Adjourn**

Solowczuk moved to adjourn at 8:06 p.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. in the **MSUE lower level Conference Room.**