



**Washtenaw County  
Department of Planning & Environment**

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

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**Members Present**

Blackmore, Blistein, Callan, Dopkowski, Gartin, Gray, Lewis, Kelly, Lovejoy Roe, Smith, Solowczuk, Walz, Williams

**Members Absent**

Bobrin (excused), Grewal, Pratt (excused), Meyer

**Staff Present**

Denig, Kowalski, Lenart

**Guests Present**

None

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Roll Call was taken and quorum was met.

**Approval of Minutes**

Solowczuk moved to approve the minutes from the June 23, 2008 and Blackmore seconded with the request that "Non-Motorized Plan" to the section discussing WATS comments on the City of Ann Arbor Downtown Plan; the motion carried.

**Approval of Agenda**

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

**Public Comment – none**

**Report of the Chair – none**

**Old Business – none**

**New Business**

Community Development/Urban County Presentation

Mary Jo Callan made a presentation on the Office of Community Development and the Urban County. She stated that PAB members can contact her if they would like some more information on the topics presented. She noted that the Office of Community Development is a joint venture between the City of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County and that it addresses housing and human services as regional issues. Goals within the Community Development Plan are very close to those listed in *A Comprehensive Plan for Washtenaw County*. Community Development is funded by several sources, with the bulk of funding coming from HUD. The Urban County offers communities the option of combining several communities into a structure in order to maximize funding from HUD and to provide technical assistance with completing requirements

for funding. The City of Ann Arbor has become the most recent local municipality to join the Urban County. The organization attempts to balance “home rule and regionalism.”

#### Green Infrastructure Resource Paper

Lenart noted that the Department would like the PAB’s approval to put this paper up on the Planning Toolkit website, and that the reason for creating it was to define green infrastructure. Smith suggested including the WMA map of green space on the paper, and Blackmore commented that the title leads one to believe that it will be about “green building” practices rather than the actual focus on green land preservation. Lenart will bring the paper back to next month’s PAB meeting with these items addressed.

#### **Report of the Director of Planning Services – Patricia Denig**

Denig noted that she met with Mary O’Hare and Brett Lenart to plan the PAB retreat, which will be taking place on August 27. Main topics addressed at the retreat will include charges and duties. She passed out her business card, which will be used as an “entry pass” to get into Rolling Hills.

There will be a meeting on Thursday for the LUG Workshop Committee. The workshop will be in October and we should start talking about sending out Save the Date cards.

Denig announced that Jim Gartin is leaving Ann Arbor SPARK for a new opportunity and therefore will not be the PAB representative from SPARK – they will appoint someone who will be confirmed by the BOC at a future meeting date.

#### **Other Items for Discussion**

##### Regional Group and Outside Agency Updates

Lewis noted that SWWCOG/MCJPC did not meet in July.

Kelly reported that CAPT/DART has submitted a LIAA grant application, which was prepared by Anya Dale in Planning Services. Additionally, they would be interested in seeing the Build-Out Analysis presentation.

Walz reported that as related to Public Works the Multilakes upgrade will be starting soon, and that several weed control programs have been completed. Whitmore Lake and Sugar Loaf Lakes’ applications went well, but North Lake’s didn’t go as well as expected. Scio Township is considering building its own water treatment plant and Western Washtenaw Recycling is considering expansion. The landfill in Salem Township is requesting an increase in capacity, which will not affect their footprint or height, and staff is working with Waste Knot on the Green Schools program.

Dopkowski reported that MORE has not met since the last PAB meeting.

Blackmore reported that AATA is trying to retain service between Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, and WATS is doing an analysis of students’ and employees’ usage from UM, EMU, WCC and St. Joe’s. Additionally, AATA is restructuring and hoping to expand beyond a city authority and the WALLY report came back as being feasible if some improvements are made. The consultant will be reporting on this topic at the next BOC meeting.

Blackmore reported on some recent legislation as related to transportation, including four bills that have been discussed. One of the bills addresses a County motor fuel tax, one offers a tax on chauffeur's and operators' licenses, one involves a real property transfer tax and one offers a local option tax on vehicle registrations. There are also a couple of proposed constitutional amendments that would allow a local sales tax of one percent for transportation specifically and one that one that would remove the stipulation that 90% of local transportation funds must go to roads.

Gray reported that the HDC met at the Nanry House on Plymouth road for their previous meeting and that they are trying to pin down a time to post a plaque at the Wilson Brothers' church in Milan. The July meeting has been cancelled.

#### Public Policy News

##### PA 134 of 2008

Lenart noted that this act proposes changes to the Joint Planning Commission act that was passed a few months ago – it now authorizes the transfer of power from a planning commission to a joint planning commission in phases, instead of required that all power be transferred at one time.

**Committee Reports** – none

**Public Comment** – none

#### **Adjourn**

Solowczuk moved to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. and Blackmore seconded.

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