



**Washtenaw County
Department of Planning & Environment**

**Planning Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 22, 2008**

Members Present

Blackmore, Blistein, Bobrin, Dopkowski, Gray, Lewis, Lovejoy Roe, Meyer, Smith, Solowczuk, Walz, Williams

Members Absent

Callan (excused), Grewal (excused), Kelly (excused), Pratt (excused),

Staff Present

Brinkman, Denig, Kowalski, Lenart, Long, VanDerworp

Guests Present

Richard Murphy of the City of Ypsilanti

Call to Order and Roll Call

Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Roll Call was taken and quorum was met.

Approval of Minutes

Solowczuk moved to approve the minutes from the August 25, 2008 meeting; Blackmore seconded and the motion carried.

Approval of Agenda

Lewis suggested that the "Ann Arbor Master Plan Update" agenda item be moved up to take place directly after the first "Public Comment" (Agenda item V). Solowczuk moved that the agenda be approved with the change suggested by Lewis, Blackmore seconded and the motion carried.

Public Comment – none

Report of the Chair – none

New Business

Ann Arbor Township Master Plan Update

Lenart highlighted the staff report on this Master Plan update. He noted that the City of Ann Arbor has a great deal of influence on the Township, as Ann Arbor Township relies on the city for commercial services, and provides quality of life and open space in return. Staff suggests considering larger lot zoning for agricultural areas to expand agricultural preservation. Additionally, contextual issues should be discussed more and there should be references to the Washtenaw County Non-Motorized Plan and the Washtenaw County Transit Plan. Staff also suggests identifying non-motorized connections and recognizing the role of historic preservation in the community.

Blackmore suggested that the Plan specifically limit roadway width rather than right-of-way width.

Solowczuk moved that the recommendations, with suggestions by Blackmore, be approved and the Master Plan Update be forwarded to the Board of Commissioners for approval; Lovejoy Roe seconded and the motion carried.

Old Business

Wind Energy Model Ordinance (small scale)

Denig presented the amended Model ordinance. Solowczuk moved that it be accepted as presented, Blackmore seconded and the motion carried.

Draft Amended Bylaws and Draft Elections Policy

Blackmore pointed out a few typos in the document and suggested some word choice changes. These include adding an “s” for “three years” instead of “three year,” in section Ib changing “certain duties as requested by the chair” to “other duties as requested by the chair,” add “or immediately upon arrival of chair” in section Id, adding “may” prior to “receive” in Article IV, in the same article, section II, last sentence, changing “...issue cannot be resolved” to “is not resolved” and adding “unless declined” in the Compensation portion regarding per diems. Solowczuk suggesting changing the \$25 per diem to “an amount as determined by the Board of Commissioners.”

Gray raised questions about the criteria for membership in the regional groups and asked that the groups submit these criteria for staff to review before the PAB moves to approve the amended bylaws. Gray moved to postpone the vote on the amended bylaws until the next PAB meeting to allow for review of these criteria and to make an informed decision; Meyer seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion did not carry.

Lovejoy Roe moved to approve the bylaws as suggested, with amendments by Blackmore and Solowczuk, Blackmore seconded and the motion carried.

Lovejoy Roe moved that staff request the information discussed by Gray from the regional groups, Blackmore seconded and the motion carried.

Report of the Director of Planning Services – Patricia Denig

Denig gave a report on the proposed budget changes that are going before the Board of Commissioners for approval at their October 1 meeting. Because of the impact this resolution will have on staffing levels in Planning Services it was suggested that further conversation around the charges and duties be postponed until after the budget is finalized so there was clear understanding on how those cuts will impact level of support that would be necessary to assist the PAB in carrying out some of the proposed charges and duties. There was discussion around the budget situation. Gray moved that the discussion be tabled, Smith seconded and the motion carried.

Denig also mentioned that the Annual Planning workshop was originally focused on “Regionalism.” However, due to the proposed budget cuts/reduction in planning, there are concerns with pushing regionalism as the topic at this time when staff’s ability to support new regional initiatives staff will be reduced. With this in mind, Denig stated that staff is considering how to determine a new topic and use a few “canned presentations” for the workshop on such

short notice since the event is scheduled for October 29th. Solowczuk moved that the workshop be moved to sometime the spring, once it is determined what Community Planning services will still be offered are determined, Lovejoy Roe seconded and the motion carried.

Other Items for Discussion

Charges and Duties Retreat follow-up

This will be discussed at a future meeting once the budget is resolved.

Regional Group and Outside Agency Updates

Gray reported that the Historic District Commission (HDC) discussed meeting with other HDCs and historical societies in the County, and will continue that discussion at their next meeting. They continue to work with Parks and Recreation on the Indian Trails marker project and hope to have some markers up by spring.

Dopkowski reported that MORE will be meeting this Thursday at Milan City Hall.

Walz reported that the Board of Public Works met on September 17 at Multilakes, and they are up and running. Residents on Joslin Lake will likely be participating in a lake management program; a public hearing is coming up soon and resident on Ellsworth Lake have also expressed interest. Western Washtenaw Recycling is still considering a \$2.4 million expansion, there are twenty-three new Waste Knot partners, and Eastern Michigan University will be co-hosting a County-Wide cleanup day on November 1. Additionally there is a one-day conference coming up to discuss the possibility of expanding the bottle deposit bill.

Lenart reported that the Washtenaw Metro Alliance had a presentation from Mary Kerr of the Ann Arbor Convention and Visitors Bureau, and she discussed the impact that the film industry has had on the region as well as the possibility of expanding the hotel tax. This summer will be big for conventions.

Lewis reported that SWWCOG had a meeting and discussed the Manchester Schools finances. Bridgewater Township is developing its own flag and Manchester Township is looking at a preferred hauler program.

Solowczuk reported that WCPARC has purchased property in Superior Township. They continue to work on expansion of Rolling Hills Water Park and have put in an offer on some unique/fragile land in Scio Township. Smith also noted that a renewal millage will be up for a vote in November.

Public Policy News

None

Committee Reports

Annual LUG Planning Workshop

It was voted earlier in the meeting to move the workshop to spring.

Public Comment – none

Adjourn

Solowczuk moved to adjourn at 7:24 p.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 27, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. in the **MSUE lower level Conference Room.**