



**Washtenaw County
Office of Strategic Planning**

**Planning Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 27, 2009**

Members Present

Bergman, Blistein, Bobrin, Dopkowski, Godek, Kelly, Lewis, Nystrom, Pratt, Schwartz, Solowczuk

Members Absent

Blackmore (excused), Callan, Gray (excused), Smith (excused), Walz (excused), Williams

Staff Present

Brinkman, Kowalski, Lenart

Guests Present

None

Call to Order and Roll Call

Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. Roll Call was taken there was a quorum. Lewis introduced Barbara Levin Bergman and Ken Schwartz, Washtenaw County Commissioners newly appointed to the Planning Advisory Board.

Approval of Minutes

Solowczuk moved to approve the minutes from the March 23, 2009 meeting, Kelly seconded and the motion carried.

Approval of Agenda

Solowczuk moved that the agenda be approved as presented, Kelly seconded and the motion carried.

Public Comment – none

Report of the Chair – none

Old Business – none

New Business

Saline Township 116-PAB-863-2009 (Ahrens Farm)

Brinkman pointed out that there was an error in the report – the farm should have been listed as having 79.2 total acres, of which 68 are in cultivation and 11 are classified as “other.” This property is in the Southwest corner of Saline Township, and is surrounded by agriculture and farmsteads. It is within the agricultural preservation overlay of the County Comprehensive Plan and is consistent with the Township Land Use Plan. Additionally, it is not likely that sewer service will be extended to this area. The owners are applying for 10 years of PA 116 designation, and the Office of Strategic Planning staff recommends that the request be approved.

Solowczuk moved that the PAB recommend approval to the Board of Commissioners, Godek seconded and the motion carried.

Economic Development Presentation – Ann Arbor SPARK

Vince Nystrom gave a presentation on Ann Arbor SPARK, explaining the reasons for their existence and some of what they do. The organization is within the private sector, but is supported by local governments in the area because of its mission as an economic development organization. The organization's focus areas include retention and attraction of businesses, talent services (matching companies, entrepreneurs, opportunity seekers and the community), and the business accelerator/incubator, which exists to help small businesses get started and develop. He also demonstrated the new "Pure Michigan" campaign by showing a television ad – this is a tourism advertising campaign begun by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

PAB members asked several questions, discussed the organization and expressed support for its mission.

Report of the Director of Community Planning

Lenart updated the Board on the Comprehensive Plan Update Committee, noting that the initial meeting of the committee should be scheduled soon.

Other Items for Discussion

Regional Group and Outside Agency Updates

Kelly reported that CAPT/DART is working with representatives of SEMCOG regarding whether regionalization of fire departments would make sense. Representatives from all of the jurisdictions came together to discuss it. Next month a representative from LIAA will come in to discuss the grant. Planning Commissioners from the area have expressed interest in working on a regional plan. She also stated that they are looking for ideas for a new name.

Dopkowski reported that Andrew Lubaren from the State of Michigan and gave a presentation on Michigan's fresh water, discussing the Great Lakes Regional Compact to save fresh water.

Godek reported that she did not attend the SSC meeting, but Lenart noted that the four townships involved are applying for a LIAA grant. They are hoping to improve quality of life and approach the region with various issues.

Lewis reported that Tamara Real came to SWWCOG, as well as Jessica Ping. The Sheriff is scheduled to attend the next meeting. He also updated the Board on the individual townships. ALPAC's most recent scheduled meeting was cancelled.

Nystrom covered his report on Economic Development during his presentation earlier in the meeting.

Solowczuk reported that he did not attend the most recent WCPARC meeting, but they are looking at a deer ordinance due to overpopulation.

Public Policy News

None

Committee Reports – none

Public Comment – none

Adjourn

Solowczuk moved to adjourn at 7:10 p.m. and Dopkowski supported.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the **Annex Large Conference Room**.