

**MONTCALM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
M I N U T E S**

Monday, May 10, 2004, 7:00 p.m.
Third Floor Conference Room
Administrative Building

Members Present: Franz Mogdis
John Johansen
Phil Lund
Bruce Noll
David Raney
Lonnie Smith
Don Smucker

Members Absent: None

Participating Members Present: Don Lehman

Others Present: Lisa Lund, Recording Secretary

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mogdis at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Mogdis led the group in the Pledge.

Roll Call

Lisa Lund took roll call and announced a quorum present.

Public Comment

Chairman Mogdis opened the floor for public comment. There was none.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April 12, 2004 meeting were reviewed. Noll and Raney asked for the correct spelling of their names throughout. Motioned by John Johansen to approve the minutes with the spelling corrections, seconded by Don Smucker. Motion carried.

Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was reviewed. John Johansen added West Michigan Regional Planning Commission letter under Old Business and 2004-2005 budget under New Business. Don Smucker added Presentation on Better Designs for Development under Reports and Mileage Approval for Don Smucker under New Business. David Raney added Review of Membership Requirements for Planning Commission under New Business. Motioned by David Raney to accept agenda with those amendments, seconded by Lonnie Smith. Motion Carried.

Reports

Newaygo Comprehensive Master Plan Steering Committee

David Raney contacted Deb Berger who is acting as point person for the Steering Committee. They are still assembling members of Steering Committee and there is currently no meeting date set.

Coalition of Greater Greenville

John Johansen attended from the Planning Commission. The next Coalition of Greater Greenville meeting is the last Thursday of the month and Jay Peters will give a presentation. Phil Lund should be attending future meetings as the Planning Commission representative.

Old Business

West Michigan Regional Planning Letter

John Johansen received a letter stating that the West Michigan Regional Planning is still interested in being considered to be used to develop a master plan and further advised they have hired an additional planner.

New Business

2004-2005 Budget

John Johansen asked Franz Mogdis to contact County Controller Ed Sell to reserve a time to meet with the finance committee to evaluate 2004-2005 budget items. We should put in a financial request to support the group as an entity and also to ask for funds we think will be required if we hire a consultant to assist with the master plan. The budget review meetings are usually held in July and August. This topic should be put on our June agenda to put together a request. The group discussed budget issues.

Mileage Approval

Don Smucker requested travel reimbursement for travel expenses incurred for the Better Designs for Development workshop held in Newaygo County. There were four trips made at 112 miles each round trip (448 miles x \$.35) + a \$15 fee = \$171.80. Motioned by Noll to reimburse Don Smucker for expenses up to \$175, seconded by John Johansen. Motion carried.

Review of Membership Requirements for Planning Commission

David Raney requested clarification regarding Section 102 (a2) of planning commission guidelines re: elected office. David Raney is interested in running as a precinct delegate and wondered if this would disqualify from planning commission membership per the guidelines. Planning Commission members felt that a precinct delegate is not treated the same as an elected office; however, Franz Mogdis was asked to check with County Controller Ed Sell to get an official opinion on the matter and communicate that decision to David Raney.

Michigan State University Grant Update

Don Lehman has been meeting with Michigan State University officials to discuss possible rapid response grants proposal ideas. These grants range in the amount of \$5,000-\$10,000. He will continue to work on this process. By June, the Planning Commission may have draft application

to review with a July submission deadline. Don Lehman asked the group to think about options for matching funds.

Presentation on Better Designs for Development

Don Smucker was delayed in making his presentation scheduled under Reports until this time. He provided a Powerpoint presentation from a workshop he attended as a member of the Planning Commission. The conservation design concept shows the mechanics of putting conservation design into land use regulations.

There was discussion about how well accepted the conservation design method would be within Montcalm County. One strategy may be to work with townships and another is to work with developers. Phil Lund suggested that working with one or two townships to test it may be a good strategy. Franz Mogdis reminded the group that conservation design is one approach and the Planning Commission needs to consider other the options before making a decision.

Regardless, information is still needed through soil mapping (with maps compatible with other county maps), build out models, visual comparisons, and community resources to get feedback on what people want.

Subscriptions information for planning and zoning have been submitted.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 14, 2004, at 7:00 p.m.

Motioned by Lonnie Smith to adjourn, seconded by Phil Lund. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Lund, Recording Secretary