

Reports

None.

Old Business

Implementation of general plan next steps

The items members were asked to review at the last meeting were as follows:

1. Develop and implement communications/education plan for Local Units of Government.
2. Develop and implement communications/education plan for general public.
3. Prepare 5-10 Year Economic Development Plan
4. Establish Conference & Visitors Bureau
5. Prepare Countywide Transportation Plan
6. Develop Agricultural Protection Plan
7. Establish Countywide Brownfield Authority
8. Update County Recreation Plan including Funding options
9. Prepare County Capital Improvement Plan annually
10. Update land use analysis with new fly over information
11. Establish county trail authority
12. Identify and develop recreation and cultural opportunities for youth
13. Update Fact Book annually
14. Develop public relations program using Daily News
15. Provide training and technical assistance to local governments
16. Develop watershed management plans for each river watershed and major lake watersheds

Item One- Land Use Educator.

The land use educator was included in the county budget at \$12,000 and remains at that level as there were no comments on the county budget as proposed by finance committee. John Johansen anticipated approval of the budget at the Board of Commissioners meeting on September 25, 2006.

Motioned by John Johansen that the Planning Commission proceed- contingent on final approval of final county budget on September 25- and move ahead with the hiring of an educator to assist in providing education to local units of government regarding key elements of the General Plan. Seconded by S. Michael Scott. A position description is not currently drafted but some examples exist. Phil Lund asked if this was a part-time position and to whom that person would report. Franz Mogdis responded that the position would be part-time and that the person would report to the MSUE Director. Motion carried.

A statement of work needs to be drafted for intent and expectations of the position.

Item Three- Five Year Economic Development Plan

The Five Year Economic Development Grant workplan that Franz Mogdis prepared has been approved and received favorable comment. The grant is for \$35,000 but the goal is \$65,000 with local match. The grant proposal can be made available to Planning Commission members for their information. The requested funding would assist in the development of putting together the Five Year Plan including planning activities.

Item 6- Develop Agricultural Protection Plan

John Johansen requested that Conservation District be included in this initiative as a partner along with the Land Use Coalition.

In further review of the items, Franz Mogdis noted that on the first 8 items as well as item #10, initiatives are either being started or are in progress.

Phil Lund requested that the information be formatted in a way that the Planning Commission could track them as goals.

John Berchtold asked John Johansen to specifically reference the 16 issues to the Board of Commissioners to ensure they are aware of them and that progress is being made.

New Business

All handouts noted are on file with the Recording Secretary.

Members

John Johansen informed the Planning Commission that as a result of an ordinance change, John Berchtold as County Administrator / Controller will have responsibility to review and identify expired terms/ openings on County committees. Existing appointments continue through December 31.

Agendas and minutes

John Johansen asked that Lisa Lund ensure that non-participating members receive the Planning Commission information.

Richland Township Correspondence

Franz Mogdis distributed correspondence from Richland Township Planning Commission dated September 14, 2006 regarding notice that they are preparing to modify their Master Land Use Plan of their Zoning Ordinance (HANDOUT B). Franz Mogdis asked members to review the information and to put it on the agenda for the next meeting. Comments were requested within 45 days of the date on the letter.

Franz Mogdis shared information on a recent Michigan Department of Agriculture Grant selection process (HANDOUT C). 225 grant proposals were submitted. Forty grants were recommended for funding and Montcalm County had three of them: Seitsema Farms, the Michigan Potato Industry Commission, and Andersen's Orchard. The recommendations go to the State Administrative Board on October 3, 2006 for final approval.

Lisa Lund reminded Planning Commission members to submit any Fiscal Year 2006 expense vouchers no later than by the end of October to Diane Hamlin at the County Controller's Office. Members needing a copy of the form should contact Lisa Lund.

Public Comments

None.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday, October 16 at 7:00 pm in the Commissioner Chambers on the third floor of the County Administration Building, 211 W. Main, Stanton.

Adjournment

Motioned by John Johansen to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Bruce Noll. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Lund, Recording Secretary