

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

Monday, December 6, 2004, 7:00 p.m.
Third Floor Conference Room
Administrative Building

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

Members Absent: Phil Lund

Participating Members Present: Don Lehman
Others Present: Lisa Lund, Recording Secretary; Pete Haines, Guest.

Call to Order

Chairman Mogdis called the meeting to order 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. Franz introduced guest Pete Haines.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 8, 2004 meeting were reviewed. Motioned by John Johansen to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Bruce Noll. Motion carried.

Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was reviewed. Franz added Community Information System review under new business. Motioned by Lonnie Smith to approve the agenda as amended. Seconded by Don Smucker. Motion carried.

Old Business and Reports

Montcalm County Land Use Coalition Meeting

The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 7, 2004 at Montcalm Community College, Instruction West Building, Auditorium A. This meeting will consist of the "Overview of Montcalm County Planning Commission Work Plan" and "Visual Preference Survey."

Kurt Norgaard of the Michigan Farmland and Community Alliance will be conducting a visual preference survey. Franz talked to Kurt today and he is planning on attending as scheduled. Kurt's role with his activity is to engage people in discussion and explore their preferences. Franz has provided him pictures to use during his activity.

Franz shared a draft of the Powerpoint he is planning on presenting tomorrow night regarding the Commission Workplan and asked members for feedback. Members provided feedback for his revision.

John Johansen briefly addressed the other two Montcalm Land Use Coalition sponsored meetings that were previously held. Regarding the November 16 Montcalm Township Association meeting, John passed around a report received there called "Unique Distinctions Drawn Together: 2004 Regional Report" produced by the West Michigan Regional Planning Alliance. John said 71 people attended the MTA meeting and that it was the largest MTA meeting he has attended. The key point John took away from presenter Jay Peters was the impact that regional growth would have on Montcalm County, especially in regard to farmland preservation efforts.

Don S. asked for an update on the build out analysis and Don L. said the students will be doing their final project reports on the build-outs tomorrow. Don L. also mentioned a special session to follow-up on Citizen Planner called "Better Designs for Development in Michigan" featuring trainer Rod Cortright. When asked by John, Don L. estimated at about \$90. Franz noted there would be training money in the budget for members to attend. Don L. recommended the training for county and township leaders (especially those in planning roles) as well as the general public. Having attended a previous training, Don S. said he highly recommended the training. There would be a class limit of about 40-50 people.

New Business

Community Information System

Lisa Lund showed the group the current Land Use information on the Community Information System website at www.montcalm.org. Land Use and Planning Commission information is located on the home page as well as under the department directory of local government. Don Smucker recommended that a subcommittee be formed to review the CIS and make recommendations for improvement. John Johansen supported the idea. Part of the reason to do this is to prepare for public engagement in developing the land use plan. Don Smucker, Lonnie Smith, and Don Lehman will review the information and make recommendations at the next Planning Commission meeting.

Franz passed out copies of the Common Ground publication.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 17 at 7:00 p.m. Note that this date was permanently changed to the third Monday at the November Planning Commission Meeting.

Motioned by Bruce Noll to adjourn. Seconded by Don Smucker. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Lund, Recording Secretary