

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

Thursday, April 6, 2006, 7:00 p.m.
Third Floor, Board of Commissioners Meeting Room
Administrative Building

Members Present: Lonnie Smith
 Franz Mogdis
 John Johansen
 Don Smucker
 S. Michael Scott
 Pete Haines

Members Absent: Bruce Noll
 Phil Lund

Participating Members Present: None

Others Present: Lisa Lund, Recording Secretary

Call to Order

Chairman Franz Mogdis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Franz 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 Meeting Minutes

All handouts noted are on file with the Recording Secretary.

Motioned by S. Michael Scott to approve the February 27, 2006 meeting minutes **(HANDOUT A)**.

Seconded by Lonnie Smith. Motion carried.

Approval of the Agenda

Franz Mogdis asked to add “five-year economic development plan proposal” under New Business.

Motioned by John Johansen to accept the agenda as amended. Seconded by Pete Haines. Motion carried.

Reports

Don Smucker commented that turnout was good at the Montcalm Township Association meeting where Mark Wyckoff presented on March 21 about the draft General Plan. The presentation was good and well received.

Old Business

All handouts noted are on file with the Recording Secretary.

Draft General Plan Review – Status and Next Steps

Lisa Lund distributed an updated draft General Plan workplan handout (HANDOUT B) detailing activities and status of the approval process.

Franz Mogdis reported that the only comments received so far were from the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission.

The Public Hearing on June 1 will be at the County Administration Building. Franz Mogdis felt this would be the only Planning Commission meeting in June, unless an additional meeting is required to revise the draft General Plan for the County Commissioners meeting.

New Business

All handouts noted are on file with the Recording Secretary.

Fact Book Reproduction

The Montcalm County Fact Book is now on-line at www.montcalm.org. Distributing hard copies at no charge would not be cost-effective, but there was a recognition that there may be a demand for hard copy.

Motioned by Johansen for those who desire hard copy to make a hard copy available for \$25. Seconded by Pete Haines. Motion carried.

CIS Website Postings

Don Smucker posted the draft General Plan PowerPoint Presentation (minus the maps- but referenced), Fact Book, and draft General Plan on the www.montcalm.org website. Franz Mogdis noted that the county is currently in transition with administrating the website due to an employee change and a website system upgrade. The website should be upgraded soon but no definitive timeline was provided. Additional training may be required to use this system.

Five-Year Economic Development Plan Proposal

Franz Mogdis distributed a document entitled “Proposal: Montcalm Area 5 Year Economic Development Plan” dated March 3, 2006 (HANDOUT C).

Previous activity and discussions with local, state and legislative stakeholders led to the proposal’s creation and submission. It was felt that county leaders need to put together 5-10 year economic development plan for the greater Montcalm area. Such a plan would provide a framework that identifies strengths and assets of communities and elements within county and put together total package of how to best proceed with economic development efforts. Economic development is defined much more broadly than focusing on developing manufacturing jobs exclusively. This economic development proposal document was submitted to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. Michigan Economic Development Corporation contacted Franz Mogdis this past Tuesday to inform him that they would contribute \$30,000 toward a planning effort, contingent on a full local match and an expanded scope of work. This would create a project budget total of \$60,000.

John Johansen stated that primary oversight for this planning process should be provided by the Montcalm County Board of Commissioners Economic Development and Facilities Committee.

Franz Mogdis summarized four next steps,: 1) agree that the planning approach will be to establish steering committee involving major local units of government and other partners including the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission, 2) determine that Economic Development and Facilities

committee will provide oversight, 3) request to raise half of the match from the County Board of Commissioners and the other half from other sources, and 4) begin drafting expanded scope of work.

In response to a question from S. Michael Scott about project timelines, Franz Mogdis stated that due to the preparation work involved, funding contributions would likely not be required in-hand until after July, but funding commitments should be made as soon as possible.

Future Meetings

The next regular meeting of the Planning Commission will be held on Thursday, May 4 at 7:00 p.m. at the County Administration Building Conference Room.

Adjournment

Motioned by John Johansen to adjourn. Seconded by Michael S. Scott. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Lund, Recording Secretary