

**WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
March 18, 2014
Minutes**

CALL TO ORDER

The Williamstown Township Planning Commission convened at 7:30 pm at the Williamstown Township Hall located at 4990 Zimmer Road, Williamston, Michigan. Chair Giese called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda.

PRESENT: Chair Giese, Vice Chair LaMore, Secretary Eidt, Commissioners Davis, DeShon, Brown-Timm, Schultink and Korson, and Trustee Williams

ABSENT: none

ALSO PRESENT: Planning Consultant Chris Doozan of McKenna Associates and Planning Assistant Wanda Bloomquist

MINUTES APPROVAL

Commissioner Korson moved to approve the minutes of January 21, 2014 with clarification of meeting dates.

Seconded by Commissioner DeShon

Motion approved

PUBLIC COMMENT

None- Closed at 7:33 pm

NEW BUSINESS

Joint Meeting with City of Williamston PC

Meeting day would be a Tuesday with the City hosting as the Township hosted the last meeting. Suggested meeting months were May, June and July. Potential topics to be included for discussion: possible corridor plan, Grand River Green Zone, connection of a river trail, zoning on our borders, City's update of the Master Plan, discuss USB(Urban Service Boundary) and water treatment and sewer capacity, shared concern with CATA service, discuss who determines road maintenance/improvements, community center/library/senior center/ brewery update, and stewardship of the Red Cedar River. Planning Assistant will discuss date options with the Williamston PC chair.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Meeting Dates

Planning Assistant Bloomquist reviewed the proposed meeting dates. The change would keep the Township Board and PC meeting dates on a similar schedule.

Commissioner Davis moved to adopt the dates as proposed and corrected.

Seconded by Commissioner Eidt.

Discussion: Several Commissioners expressed difficulty their schedule due to the change.

Motion carries

Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Chris reviewed the proposed Parks and Recreation Master Plan and highlighted the Goals and Objectives portion of the plan. The Township will need to have a 30 day review period for public comment for consideration of further revisions. The Board would be responsible to hold a public hearing and formally adopt the plan once review comments have been considered.

Discussion:

- Correction on page 1.1 of 1988 to 1998.
- Locke township hall description and the reference of park use in their Master Plan to our park.
- Would like to see the State Roadside park added.
- 5.1: Clarification of the park as a community park.
- Rail to Trail ruling by the Supreme Court primarily affects trails to the west of the Mississippi.

Vice Chair LaMore moved to make the plan available for public comment on the website, Township Hall and the Williamston Library for the 30 day comment period.

Seconded by Secretary Eidt

Discussion: Public Hearing is held by the Township Board.

Motion carries.

Red Cedar Corridor Practicum

The Practicum Team's River Trail final presentation will be Thursday, May 1st, 7:00 pm at Meridian Township. The practicum team held a visioning workshop on the 13th at the Harris Nature Center. Several residents along with representation from the City of Williamston and representatives from Ingham County, Tri-County and neighboring municipalities on the Red Cedar River participated. There was good discussion of issues dealing with a River Trail with regards to flooding, landowner cooperation and other options being considered by the city for trail placement. Commissioners are urged to attend the May 1st presentation of the final plan.

Discussion included the stewardship of the Red Cedar River and pollution sources. Several sources for information include Ingham County Environmental Health, Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Committee, the DEQ and the Red Cedar Watershed Project/Water Research GroupMSU. The commission was in agreement that they would like more information on the condition of the Red Cedar, source points of pollution, and what actions could be taken to improve the quality of the river for use. Discussion also included responsibility of blockages within the river and how they are addressed. Grants are available for river clean-up provided rivers have the proper designations. If a source of pollution is a livestock operation, GAAMPS for Manure Management should prevent this source, if GAAMPS are followed appropriately. MAEAP(Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program) is a program that helps farmers voluntarily prevent or minimize pollution risks.

Master Plan Revisions

The Township has received notification from the City of Williamston, Shiawassee County and Perry Township of the intent to update their respective Master Plans. Planning Assistant Bloomquist asked for Commissioners to consider reviewing the draft plans once they are completed.

Planning and Board Reports and Review

Township Board

- A Public Hearing was held on the 14-15 Budget and the 2014. The Board then adopted the 2014-15 budget and renewed the police assessment role.
- Discussed compliance issues of Wallace Storage.

- The Township won the case regarding the Hudson farm in Circuit Court, though it was anticipated they would appeal.
- Asked for Commissioners to report dumping at the Township Park.

Planning Staff

- Save the dates: Practicum Teams final presentation of the Red Cedar River Corridor Plan presentation: Thursday, May 1st, 7:00 pm, Meridian Township
- Practicum Team's final presentation for MSU will be April 27 at 9:00 am, Brody Hall. Other participating team projects of interest include: South Cedar Corridor, Lansing Food Bank, FRIB Economic Impact Study.
- MAP Spring Institute: March 27th.
- Invited Commissioners to participate in the Park Project and to visit the website for details.

Commission thanked Planning Assistant Bloomquist for the workshop: "Making Bullet Proof Decisions"

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Review

- Approval of January 21, 2013 Minutes
- Discussed topics for discussion for a joint meeting with the City of Williamston
- Approved the Meeting Dates for 2014-15.
- Moved to share the proposed Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the 30 day comment period.
- Reminder of the May 1st Practicum team presentation to be held at Meridian Township at 7:00 pm.
- The desire of the Commission for a presentation on the health of the Red Cedar River, who is responsible and what the different duties are of respective organizations monitoring the river.

**Commissioner Davis moved to Adjourn
Seconded by Commissioner Brown-Timm
Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.**

**Wanda Bloomquist,
Recording Secretary**

Secretary Eidt