

KMPC Members:
Neil Sikora, Chair
Joseph Hohler III, Vice-Chair
Steven Cook, Secretary
John Gisler, Commissioner Liaison
Joel Amos
Vince Carahaly
Martin Janssen
Jack Mekemson
Heather Ricketts
Herman Smith
Jon Start

Minutes

Kalamazoo Metropolitan County Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, May 7, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joel Amos, Vince Carahaly, John Gisler, Joseph Hohler III, Jon Start, Herman Smith
MEMBERS EXCUSED: Martin Janssen, Jack Mekemson, Steven Cook, Heather Ricketts, Neil Sikora
OTHERS PRESENT: Lotta Jarnefelt

I. Call to Order

Vice Chair Hohler called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm in Room 207A at the Kalamazoo County Administration Building at 201 W. Kalamazoo Ave, Kalamazoo MI 49007.

II. Approval of Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the last regular meeting held on April 2, 2015. On a motion made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Amos, the Commission approved the minutes from the meeting.

III. Citizens' time

There were no citizens present.

IV. New Business

1. Schoolcraft twp: Future Land Use Plan Map Amendment. Staff review - Action Item.

Ms. Jarnefelt presented a staff review of the Map amendment application.

The subject property consists of three parcels in the southwest ¼ of section 13 in Schoolcraft Twp, located between the railroad and E W Ave. It is approximately 64 acres total. The request is for the property to be changed from a Rural Preservation to an Industrial classification in the Future Land Use Map.

The subject area is zoned as RR-Rural Residential on the Zoning map effective 08/29/2012. Sometime between 2003 and 2012, the zoning was changed. An older version of the zoning map, effective 08/24/2003, shows the subject property as Manufacturing Industrial District. Soils are mainly not considered prime farmland soils.

The Future Land Use Map amendment request is to support the applicant's related request to rezone the property from the existing RR-Rural Residential to the LI-Local Industrial District zone.

The Future Land Use Map of the Village of Vicksburg shows the areas surrounding the subject property as Industrial and Residential to the north, Enterprise Development to the east (the Fox Paper mill), Public/Quasi-public to the south (the wet area) and Contemporary Residential also to the south.

The property to the east of the subject area is the abandoned Fox Paper Mill, which is a brownfield and in the process of potentially being developed.

ON A MOTION MADE by Mr. Amos and DULY SECONDED by Mr. Carahaly, the Planning Commission UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDED APPROVAL of the proposed amendment to the Future Land Use Plan map and determined that it is CONSISTENT with the planning and zoning of the neighboring governmental units in Kalamazoo County.

V. Other Business/discussion

1. Discuss creating a Kalamazoo County Master Plan.

Ms. Jarnefelt mentioned that a request for Capital Improvement Program funding for 2016 had been submitted by the Planning Department to cover part of the cost of producing a County Master Plan. The idea of producing a Master Plan has been discussed in the KMCPC meetings, but any plans to create a Master Plan are tentative. Allegan County's scenario was discussed. Grand Traverse County's approach to a Master Plan was seen as a good approach. A focus on inventory of countywide resources and a compilation of existing local plans is recommended. Informal discussions about plan to continue. Reaching out to local units was recommended before any formal decisions are made. An outline of a table of contents, how the Master Plan would be helpful and GIS opportunities were also discussed.

VI. Report from Parks Commission liaison Mr. Amos:

Mr. Amos gave a brief update on items discussed at the Parks Commission meeting that afternoon. Reported that the extension of trails had been discussed and bids were accepted for new livestock barn at the Expo center. Also issues with people doing metal detecting in the County parks was discussed.

VII. Correspondence

1. Ms. Jarnefelt noted that the Notice about the June 1, 2015 public hearing regarding the Schoolcraft Township Future Land Use Plan map amendment was received after the KMCPC May 7 agenda had been emailed.

VIII. Other

It was reported that Mr. Mekemson has had serious health issues. A card will be sent to him by Ms. Jarnefelt in the name of the KMCPC members.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted, L. Jarnefelt

Next scheduled KMCPC Meeting is Thursday, June 4, 2015.