

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

Minutes

Kalamazoo Metropolitan County Planning Commission Meeting of Thursday, August 6, 2015

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

I. Call to Order

Chair Sikora called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm in Room 207A at the Kalamazoo County Administration Building at 201 W. Kalamazoo Ave, Kalamazoo MI 49007.

II. Agenda Revisions

Ms. Jarnefelt requested to have the agenda revised to include the introduction of new member Virgie Ammerman, who was appointed to KMCPC by the County Board on the 5th of August. Ms. Jarnefelt also asked that members sign a card to be sent to Jack Mekemson thanking him for his service and wishing him well in his recovery.

Ms. Ammerman and the members introduced themselves and gave brief descriptions of their backgrounds.

III. Approval of Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the last regular meeting held on May 7, 2015. On a motion made by Mr. Start and seconded by Mr. Hohler, the Commission approved the minutes from the meeting.

IV. Citizens' time

There were no citizens present.

V. New Business

1. Richland Township 2035 Master Plan. Staff review - Action Item.
The Master plan was reviewed by Ms. Jarnefelt. The Plan has an emphasis on preserving rural atmosphere but also supporting residential and commercial development where appropriate. The 3-year time span for the Master Plan process allows for public input which was emphasized as a major component of the plan.

- Concerns noted during discussion included:
- the Planned Industrial land use category in the Proposed 2035 Land Use Plan overlaps the Northerly Wellhead Protection Limit area. In the text of the plan, it is stated that the wellhead

protection area should be designated as Recreation/Open Space to preserve the area (page VII-1, recreation/Open Space, Objective 1.

- On page VIII-1, there is reference to the Golf Course as a public facility. With the sale of the Golf Course, that reference may not be accurate. Other references to the golf course may also have to be revised to reflect the changed status of the site.

ON A MOTION MADE by Mr. Carahaly and DULY SECONDED by Mr. Hohler, the Planning Commission UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDED APPROVAL of the proposed Master Plan and determined that it is CONSISTENT with the planning and zoning of the neighboring governmental units in Kalamazoo County, on the condition that the concerns expressed in the notes above are addressed.

2. Notice of proposed Railroad Positive Train Control (PTC) Communication monopoles. Staff review – Action item.

Ms. Jarnefelt reported on the staff review and noted that no adverse effects of the monopoles on historic properties had been identified. The location of the poles are on previously disturbed areas in railroad easements. A review of aerials of the proposed locations showed existing boxes, poles or other railroad equipment already in the locations. Ms. Jarnefelt had forwarded the notification by email to the supervisors in the affected townships of Climax, Pavilion, Brady, Schoolcraft and Prairie Ronde, and the clerk of Village of Climax.

On a motion made by Hohler and supported by Carahaly, the Planning Commission acknowledged receipt of the notification and has no objections to the poles being constructed. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Other Business/discussion

Update on potential Kalamazoo County Master Plan.

A onetime increase of \$30,000 in the Planning Department's 2016 operational budget is included in the initial 2016 budget request that will be presented to the County Board. The funds would cover some of the cost of creating a Master Plan for the County. A similar amount is expected for the project in in-kind contribution from the Planning Department staff. Ms. Jarnefelt will request to present the proposed project at the next available Supervisor's meeting to make the local municipalities aware of it.

VII. Report from Parks Commission liaison Mr. Amos:

Mr. Amos was not present, there was no report.

VIII. Correspondence

A Notice of Intent to prepare a Master Plan update was received from the City of Kalamazoo.

IX. Other

Ms. Jarnefelt reported on a discussion that has started regarding the passing of a Farmland Preservation ordinance in the County. A group of interested parties have started researching the issue, as the County is in disadvantage for not having an ordinance when it comes to certain grants. Neighboring counties have a Farmland Preservation ordinance in place.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted, L. Jarnefelt

Next scheduled KMCP Meeting is Thursday, September 3, 2015.