

**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  
Jon Start  
Alice Taylor

## **Minutes**

### **Kalamazoo Metropolitan County Planning Commission (KMPC) Meeting of Thursday, January 7, 2016**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Joel Amos, John Gisler, Vince Carahaly, Steve Cook, Joseph Hohler III, Martin Janssen, Neil Sikora, Jon Start, Heather Ricketts, Alice Taylor

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Virgie Ammerman

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Lotta Jarnefelt, Director of County Planning Dept.

#### **I. Call to Order**

Chair Sikora called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 December 3, 2015. On a motion made by Ms. Ricketts and seconded by Mr. Hohler, the Commission approved the minutes.

#### **III. Introductions**

Before moving to the next item, Chair Sikora added "Introductions" to introduce the new KMPC member Alice Taylor, who was appointed by the County Board on December 15, 2015. All members gave a brief introduction of themselves, and Ms. Taylor did the same. Ms. Taylor is a retired Die Maker and is eager to start participating in the work of public committees through KMPC.

#### **IV. Citizens' time**

No citizens were present.

#### **V. Old Business**

1. Resolutions to honor Herman Smith and Jack Mekemson.

As a result of discussions at the December 2015 KMPC meeting, a KMPC and County resolution was prepared for Herman Smith to honor his long service to the KMPC. It was noted that Jack Mekemson also had served about the same length of time until he was forced to resign due to health reasons, and that it was the KMPC members' desire to honor him in the same way.

On a motion made by Mr. Hohler, seconded by Mr. Cook, the KMPC resolutions

for Mr. Smith and Mr. Mekemson were unanimously approved, as well as the resolutions to be presented to the County Board to approve. Staff will check if information about the either one of the gentlemen having served as officers of the KMCP board could be found and added to the resolution language.

## **VI. New Business**

1. Brady Township: Review of application for Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act of 1974 (known as PA 116), in Section 17; applicant Roy Richardson. Staff review-Action Item.

Staff presented a review of the application. The Future Land Use of the subject area is “Residential”, not “General Agricultural” or “Prime Agricultural” like much of the surrounding area in the Future Land Use Map in Brady Township’s Master Plan. KMCP assumes that the Future Land Use Map designation of “Residential” and the current zoning of “RR-Rural Residential” are aligned with the planned agricultural use of this property for the next 90 years.

On a motion made by Mr. Hohler and seconded by Mr. Cook, the Planning Commission unanimously voted to support approval of the proposed PA 116 application, with the recommendation that the “Residential” designation in the Future Land Use map should be reviewed and amended to better align with the planned agricultural use.

2. Brady Township: Review of application for Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act of 1974 (known as PA 116), in Section 29; applicant Roy Richardson. Staff review-Action Item.

Staff presented a review of the application. The Future Land Use of the subject area in section 30 is “Residential” in the Future Land Use Map in Brady Township’s Master Plan. The subject areas in section 29 are designated “Prime Agricultural”. All subject properties are currently appropriately zoned “Agricultural.”

On a motion made by Mr. Carahaly and seconded by Mr. Cook, the Planning Commission unanimously voted to support approval of the proposed PA 116 application, with the recommendation that the “Residential” designation in section 30 in the Future Land Use map should be reviewed and potentially amended to better align with the planned agricultural use.

3. Prairie Ronde Township: Review of application for Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act of 1974 (known as PA 116), in Section 19; applicant Philip Maneikis. Staff review-Action Item.

Staff presented a review of the application. The Future Land Use Maps designation in the Prairie Ronde Township 2022 Master Plan (updated in 2010), the current zoning and the rural nature of the area support the application.

On a motion made by Mr. Carahaly and seconded by Mr. Cook, the Kalamazoo Metropolitan County Planning Commission unanimously voted to support approval of the proposed PA 116 application.

**VII. Report from Parks Commission liaison Ms. Ammerman:**

Ms. Ammerman was absent, no report.

**VIII. Correspondence**

A final copy of the Climax Township 2035 Master Plan (reviewed by KMCPC at the November 2015 meeting) was received on December 10, 2015.

**IX. Other Business/discussion**

1. County Master Plan project update.

The preparations to start working on a County Master Plan were discussed. Issues such as what we want this plan to be, the County's vision and the purpose of the plan have to be defined. Mr. Carahaly suggested that we ask Lee Adams from SMPC (Southcentral Michigan Planning Council) to write a letter to KMCPC with his suggestions and any guidance that he could provide, including what SMPC could commit to. Mr. Start mentioned that township supervisors and other interested parties need to be informed and kept in the loop as the process moves forward.

2. Other

Mr. Carahaly asked whether the KMCPC has waived its right to review the zoning ordinances and amendments of the local governmental units. Ms. Jarnefelt reported that it had been done many years ago and she will email a copy of the resolution to the KMCPC members. Mr. Carahaly also mentioned that he is now one of the representatives of the County on the SMPC. He had attended a meeting and found it interesting. He also mentioned the Regional Prosperity Initiative (RPI) which continues its work. He will provide an update on the SMPC meetings at the KMCPC meetings going forward.

**X. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

**Respectfully submitted by L. Jarnefelt.**  
*Next scheduled KMCPC Meeting is Thursday, February 2, 2016.*