

KMCPC Members:
Neil Sikora, Chair
Joseph Hohler III, Vice-Chair
Steven Cook, Secretary
John Gisler, Commissioner Liaison
Joel Amos
Vince Carahaly
Martin Janssen
Heather Ricketts
Jon Start
Vacancy 1
Vacancy 2

Minutes

Kalamazoo Metropolitan County Planning Commission (KMCPC) Meeting of Thursday, March 3, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joel Amos, John Gisler, Vince Carahaly, Steve Cook, Joseph Hohler III, Martin Janssen, Neil Sikora
MEMBERS EXCUSED: Jon Start, Heather Ricketts (and 2 Vacancies)
OTHERS PRESENT: Lotta Jarnefelt, Director of County Planning Dept.

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. Members Excused

Mr. Start and Ms. Ricketts were excused.

III. Approval of Agenda

Chair Sikora added two items to the agenda under VI. New Business, # 3 and 4:

- Acceptance of resignations of KMCPC members Alice Taylor and Virgie Ammerman
- Request for a volunteer to be the KMCPC liaison to the Parks Commission

Motion by Mr. Hohler, seconded by Mr. Cook to approve the agenda with changes, motion carried.

IV. Approval of Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the last regular meeting held on January 8, 2016 (February meeting was cancelled). Motion by Mr. Hohler, seconded by Mr. Amos to approve the minutes, motion carried.

V. Citizens' time

No citizens were present.

VI. New Business

1. Pavilion Township: Review of application for Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act of 1974 (known as PA 116), in Section 31; applicants Randy Richardson and Robert Richardson. Staff review-Action Item.

Staff presented a review of the application. The subject area applied for is 67.7 acres, 61 acres of it is in cultivation with prime farmland soils. It is zoned A-1

Agriculture and designated “Low Density Residential” in the Future Land Use Map which was published in 1999. As long as agricultural use is allowed in the Future Land Use category, this application is supported by staff.

It was noted that the Future Land Use Plan should be reviewed as it is 17 years old and some priorities of how the land should be used in the future may have changed.

On a motion made by Mr. Hohler and seconded by Mr. Carahaly, the Planning Commission unanimously voted to support approval of the proposed PA 116 application, with the inclusion of a recommendation to update the Future Land Use Map.

2. Pavilion Township: Review of application for Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act of 1974 (known as PA 116), in Section 31; applicant Randy Richardson. Staff review-Action Item.

Staff presented a review of the application. The subject area applied for is 35.6 acres, 27.1 acres of it is in cultivation with prime farmland soils. It is zoned R-2 residential, Singel Family and designated “Low Density Residential” in the Future Land Use Map which was published in 1999. As long as agricultural use is allowed in the Future Land Use category, this application is supported by staff.

It was noted that the Future Land Use Plan should be reviewed as it is 17 years old and some priorities of how the land should be used in the future may have changed. Also, the township should review the appropriateness of the zoning, as R-2 Residential, Single Family may not be the appropriate zoning for a parcel that will be in a PA116 agreement.

On a motion made by Mr. Hohler and seconded by Mr. Carahaly, the Planning Commission unanimously voted to support approval of the proposed PA 116 application, with the inclusion of a recommendation to update the Future Land Use Map and review the zoning designation.

3. Acceptance of resignations of KMCPC members Alice Taylor and Virgie Ammerman.

Both Ms. Taylor and Ms. Ammerman have had changes in their schedules, are unable to attend the KMCPC meetings and have therefore resigned. Mr. Hohler motioned and Mr. Janssen seconded to accept their resignations. Motion carried.

4. Request for a volunteer to be the KMCPC liaison to the Parks Commission.

Chair Sikora asked the members to consider being the liaison for the Parks Commission, as the post is vacated after Ms. Ammerman’s resignation. The item was tabled until the next meeting, and/or to a time when the two KMCPC vacancies have been filled and a volunteer can be assigned.

VII. Other Business/discussion

1. County Master Plan update. The County Master Plan pre-planning committee consisting of Neil Sikora, Steve Cook, Heather Ricketts, Vince Carahaly and Lotta Jarnefelt has met 3 times to review other counties' Master Plans, tables of contents, goals and objectives, and RFPs to get ideas on how to proceed. The next step is preparing a RFP to select a consultant to help with guidance through the Master Plan process and producing the Plan. The group's scheduled meetings are at 9 am on the Tuesday before the KMCPC regular meetings.

VIII. Report from Parks Commission liaison:

Ms. Ammerman has resigned, no report.

IX. Correspondence

Received: Notice of Public Hearing on February 8, 2016 for Climax Twp 2035 Master Plan (reviewed by KMCPC in November 2015).

X. Other

1. Chair Sikora asked Mr. Carahaly to give an update from the SMPC (Southcentral Michigan Planning Council) meeting and suggested to make it a part of the routine updates on the KMCPC agenda. Mr. Carahaly reported that Barry County has separated from SMPC and joined the Planning Region to the north (Grand Rapids area), leaving the 4 remaining SMPC members the counties of Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Branch and St. Joseph. He also reported that an internal investigation had been started regarding the activities of the former Director of the organization, who served a long time before the SMPC was reorganized in 2012.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by L. Jarnefelt.
Next scheduled KMCPC Meeting is Thursday, April 7, 2016.