

**Colfax Township, Weldon Township and
Village of Thompsonville
Joint Planning Commission**

Meeting Minutes – December 1, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by Sue Meredith followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present at roll call were Sue Meredith, Bryan Matthews, Jack Richter, Shelley Greene, Peggy Minster, Debra Franke, Pat Workman and Eugene Allen. Absent: Marty Lonn. Guests: Craig Meredith, Heather Seyfarth and Harry Burkholder.

Citizen Matters. None.

Minutes Approval. Sue asked if there were questions/comments. Jack moved, seconded by Debra, to accept the November 17 minutes. Ayes: all; motion carried.

Master Plan Project Session. A list of goals and objectives was reviewed which was prepared by Heather based on discussion from the previous meeting. Some suggested strategies for the various items included help for residents' housing through church and veterans groups, Habitat for Humanity and a community action group; issue a "press release" in the Record Patriot and contact realtors concerning our planning and zoning plans; focus on signs and lighting regulations; offer car rental; consider a millage for a deputy; create a citizen watch group. For the master plan, old pictures would add character to the document. The Benzie County Museum was suggested as a possible source. Shelley will contact some neighbors. Anyone else who can borrow photos was encouraged to do so.

Unfinished Business

Legal Advisors. Issue remains open.

Survey. Issue remains open.

Training. Issue is ongoing. Peggy said she has a Citizen Planner manual. She will check into the cost for a copy. Craig suggested this could be covered in the budget and the group could review a chapter each month. Sue informed the group of an upcoming sign workshop in January at several locations.

New Business

Intent to Plan Letters. Shelley started a list of names and contact info gathered from the internet. Sue will obtain the list used by Weldon. Some mentioned were Green Lake, Inland, Cleon, Springdale, Benzonia, Joyfield, Cherryland, Consumers Power, Wolverine Power, DTE, ACE, CSX and Brian Bury.

Administrator. Gene asked about timing of an administrator. Previous discussion covered bringing one on board early in the planning process. Add this to the next agenda to ask LIAA on timing. Shelley will follow up with LIAA on a ballpark figure to write the zoning ordinance.

Adjournment. Peggy moved to adjourn, seconded by Shelley. Meeting was adjourned at 9:02pm. Next regular meeting is January 5.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Greene
Secretary