

Colfax Township, Weldon Township and Village of Thompsonville
Community Joint Planning Commission
14731 Thompson Avenue, Thompsonville, MI 48683
Minutes – Special Meeting – May 30, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 6:33PM by Sue Meredith followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present at roll call: Jack Richter, Shelley Greene, Sue Meredith, Don Suchocki, Debra Franke, Eugene Allen and Craig Meredith. Absent: Marty Lonn, Bryan Matthews and Pat Workman (excused). Peggy Minster arrived at 6:40PM.

Agenda Additions/Corrections. Craig moved, seconded by Jack, to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Draft Master Plan. Copies of the MPEA were provided to review the plan adoption process discussed on May 22. Shelley pointed out the phrase in Section 125.3843(3) regarding legislative bodies asserting by resolution the right to approve or reject the master plan. None in the group were aware of a resolution, and since the Act gives power to planning commissions to adopt a master plan in the absence of a resolution, Shelley felt the JPC would be able to proceed with adoption after the public hearing. She suggested requesting approval of the draft plan at the June board/council meetings (they would have copies beforehand) and include a statement in the draft plan from each entity that they approve the plan. Harry confirmed previously that we could follow this procedure. Craig suggested seeking approval from officials to allow the 63-day public period to begin as soon as possible. A public hearing could be held on day 64 as long as publication is made at least 15 days in advance. Sue said copies will be ready for delivery to officials after the June 7 meeting.

Eugene asked about making changes to the plan. Any significant changes (to goals, objectives or strategies) starts the process again. Craig asked a process question; Shelley said the JPC would approve the draft plan on June 7, give copies to officials June 8 to review, seek their approval June 11, 12 and 13, start the public period when it's on the website, hold a public hearing and then the JPC would adopt the plan. If officials had any concerns that would stop the process, the JPC would not move forward until all legislative bodies were in agreement. Eugene asked the reason for a limited amount of time for officials to review. It was to save time (at least a month). The Action Plan section with the goals, objectives and strategies is the most important part of the plan – it affects the officials. The balance is supporting documentation (census statistics, regional profile, area history, etc.). Sue said the entities have been updated monthly; Jack mentioned the progress report from LIAA given to everyone. Craig asked what the JPC ordinance states. Shelley went through her copy and didn't find a statement about master plan adoption. Sue believed the ordinance did not cover the issue, only that it addressed the formation of the planning commission. Everyone agreed to Shelley sending an email to officials to explain our position seeking their approval and attach the Action Plan for their review/comment. Sue said there are other things we will be doing during the 63-day period, such as getting zoning ordinance quotes. Shelley said Summerfest was approaching and could be an opportunity to increase public awareness of the master plan, letting them know a copy will be in the library.

The Action Plan with timelines and responsibilities was reviewed. Lengthy discussion was held on land use areas for commercial and industrial. The master plan can be amended if the JPC feels it is necessary.

Shelley spoke ~~talked~~ with the Colfax webmaster in preparation for putting the draft plan online for the public period.

Shelley asked about sending draft copies to surrounding communities even if they did not respond (register) to the Intent to Plan letter. Sue will ask Dick Figura about the MPEA requirements on this.

Shelley referenced the MPEA on the chairperson position. Sue will cover with Figura to determine the effect, if any, on a joint planning commission.

Adjournment. Don moved to adjourn, seconded by Bryan. Meeting adjourned at 8:58PM. Next meeting is scheduled for June 7 at 7:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Greene
Secretary

Minutes are proposed until approved at the next meeting.