

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

Regular Meeting of January 3, 2007

Call to Order/Roll Call

Acting Chairperson Al Rumbaugh called the regular meeting of the Grattan Township Planning Commission to order at the Grattan Township Hall at 12050 Old Belding Road at 7:04 p.m. Members present: A. Berry, A. Rumbaugh, L. Sostecke, D. Heffron and Mark Byrne. Members absent: J. Proos.

Township Supervisor Frank Force, Township Clerk Jim Fues and Township Attorney Jim Brown also attended the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

A. Rumbaugh led the Pledge of Allegiance.

(J. Proos arrived at 7:10 p.m.)

Approval of Agenda

A. Rumbaugh added discussion of the 2007 Planning Commission budget to the agenda. L. Sostecke moved and D. Heffron seconded to approve the amended agenda. All ayes. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Minor corrections to the minutes were noted. L. Sostecke moved and A. Berry seconded to approve the amended minutes. All ayes. The motion carried.

Public Comments

There were no public comments

Continued Review- Ordinance Amendment- Limited Excavation Equipment Storage in Certain Districts

Commissioners reviewed J. Brown's proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment (draft 6). It was agreed to change the date for existing excavation operations to January 1, 2007. Additional corrections to the December 6, 2006 minutes were noted in discussion of this matter. L. Sostecke moved and D. Heffron seconded to re-amend the minutes to show that Commissioners agreed to a 5-acre lot size (4-acre for existing excavation operations as of 01-01-06) and to allow immediate family members (not one as stated in the minutes). All ayes. The motion carried.

A. Berry moved and M. Bryne seconded to recommend approval of the ordinance amendment to the Township Board with changes discussed at this meeting. All ayes. The motion carried.

Continued Review- Amendment for Specialized Storage of Vehicles and Seasonal Items in Agricultural Buildings

A. Rumbaugh reviewed Jim Brown's proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment (draft 2). Commissioners discussed the Fire Chief's role in determining approval of requests for storage in agricultural buildings. They said the intent of the Fire Chief's review was to make the fire department aware of existing storage facilities and it's contents. J. Brown will clarify this section of the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment. It was noted that this matter requires a public hearing. J. Brown offered his services for the public hearing pro bono as there are no funds available in the Planning Commission's budget.

L. Sostecke moved and M. Bryne seconded to tentatively approve the amendment with J. Brown's additional changes and to schedule the matter for public hearing at the February 2007 meeting. All ayes. The motion carried.

New Business

D. Heffron moved and A. Berry seconded to approve Planning Commission meeting dates for 2007 with the July meeting changed to July 11, 2007. All ayes. The motion carried.

A. Berry moved and D. Heffron seconded to nominate Alan Rumbaugh as Chairperson of the Planning Commission. A. Rumbaugh moved and M. Bryne seconded to nominate Lisa Sostecke as Vice Chairperson of the Planning Commission. A. Rumbaugh moved and J. Proos seconded to nominate Al Berry as Secretary of the Planning Commission. Commissioners voted all ayes on these three nominations. The motions carried.

Discussion

In order to set the 2007 Planning Commission budget, A. Rumbaugh asked Commissioners if they were aware of any ordinances up for review. D. Heffron said there might be some changes needed to the wetland bonus points for developments such as Tom White's or any PUD. Township Clerk Jim Fues said the Master Plan should be reviewed every 5 years. D. Heffron said the Township would be ineligible for PDR funding if the Master Plan is not up to date. Commissioners discussed this matter and agreed to add a review of the Master Plan to the February 2007 agenda. Commissioners were asked to review the current Master Plan prior to the February meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, A. Rumbaugh declared the meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on February 7, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Timmons

Recording Secretary, GTPC

Al Berry, Secretary GTPC