

IONIA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Organizational Meeting

February 18, 2009

5:30 p.m.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Paul Bowering. He then led the group in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Bowering, Harwood, Mason, Palmer, Sandborn, Yeomans, and Weisgerber. Members absent: Coe and DePotty.

(Note: two vacancies remain on the eleven-member commission.)

Others present: Mark Howe and Barbara Trierweiler.

Current members introduced themselves to newly appointed member Lynn Mason.

Bowering stated that as this is the organizational meeting for 2009, the first matter of business is to elect officers. He also stated that as he will not be seeking reappointment to the planning commission, he no longer wishes to assume the position of chairman.

Moved by Bowering, supported by Weisgerber, to nominate and cast a unanimous ballot for Gregg Yeomans to serve as chairman for the ensuing year. Motion carried by voice vote.

Yeomans called for nominations for vice chairman. Following several nominations, which were declined, it was moved by Mason and supported by Sandborn to nominate Paul Bowering. Moved by Weisgerber, supported by Mason, to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Paul Bowering to serve as vice chairman. Motion carried by voice vote.

Moved by Palmer, supported by Sandborn, to nominate Mark Howe to serve as secretary of the planning commission. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

The annual review of the bylaws resulted in proposing a change to the wording of the first item, "Authority," and adding item "1.1 Membership."

Moved by Weisgerber, supported by Mason, that the bylaws be amended to include the following item:

1.1 Membership. The appointment process, which includes establishing the size of the planning commission and terms of office as well as membership representation, is delegated to the county's legislative body and is governed by §15 (1); §15 (2); §15 (3); and §15 (6) of the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, Public Act 33 of 2008, as amended, (MCL 125.3801 *et seq.*).

Motion carried by voice vote.

Moved by Mason, supported by Sandborn, to amend the bylaws by changing the first item to read as follows:

1. AUTHORITY

These rules of procedures are adopted by the Ionia County Planning Commission (hereinafter referred to as the Commission) pursuant to the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, Public Act 33 of 2008, as amended.

Motion carried by voice vote.

Moved by Bowering, supported by Harwood, to adopt the “Ionia County Planning Commission Bylaws and Rules of Procedure,” as amended, for 2009. Motion carried by voice vote.

Moved by Bowering, supported by Mason, to set the meeting date and time as the fourth Wednesday of the month commencing at 5:30 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote. (Note: consistent with the procedure established in 2008, it was agreed upon that while the specific meeting dates would be posted pursuant to the requirements of the Open Meetings Act, the members should consider the meetings “cancelled” until the chairman determines an actual need to meet. When this occurs, all members will be notified.)

Yeomans noted two additional agenda items under New Business: (B) a memo from Jeanne Vandersloot; and (C) a recommendation to decrease the planning commission’s membership.

Moved by Bowering, supported by Palmer, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried by voice vote.

Moved by Bowering, supported by Harwood, to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2008 meeting. Motion carried by voice vote with Mason abstaining as she was not a member at that time.

Moved by Bowering, supported by Palmer, to approve paid invoices in the amount of \$2,152.68 (detailed list submitted with agenda) covering the period September 6, 2008 through February 20, 2009. Motion carried by voice vote.

Copies of minutes and notes from the board of commissioners’ January 20th committee-of-the-whole meeting had been previously distributed to the membership. Yeomans briefly outlined the results of the discussion which was intended to help determine a direction and future goals for the planning commission. Members discussed possibly interacting with other boards and/or committees that are involved in projects such as “Rails-to-Trails.”

Due to having a previous obligation, Mason asked to be excused from the meeting at 6:20 p.m. However, prior to leaving she asked if any of the items listed under “Notices/communications...” were going to be discussed. The only current item was the draft of the Otisco Township (Proposed) Land Use Plan. The deadline to submit comments is March 27, 2009; however, as it is unclear what changes are included in the

proposed plan, the members would like further information from the Otisco Township zoning administrator prior to making a decision on whether or not a review of the document by the planning commission would be necessary and beneficial.

Jeanne Vandersloot has completed the conversion of the Ionia County Master Plan to a Microsoft Word format. She has offered further thoughts on the update process now that she has a more thorough understanding of the document. As the members questioned the recommended update time-frame, Yeomans stated he would contact Jeanne to discuss the matter further.

For a number of years the planning commission has consisted of eleven members. During the development of the master plan and subsequent zoning ordinance, all positions were filled; however, since a continuation of the enacted zoning ordinance was defeated, vacancies on the commission have remained unfilled and it has become increasingly difficult to reach a quorum at scheduled meetings. Moved by Bowering, supported by Sandborn, that the Ionia County Planning Commission recommend to the board of commissioners that it reduce the planning commission membership from eleven to nine, which will then eliminate the two currently vacant positions. Motion carried by voice vote.

Howe took a brief moment to thank Paul for his many years of dedicated service to the citizens of Ionia County.

Moved by Bowering, supported by Weisgerber, to adjourn the meeting (6:40 p.m.). Motion carried by voice vote.