

IONIA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

September 17, 2008

5:30 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Chairman Paul Bowering who led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Others present: Jeanne Vandersloot, Mark Howe, and Barbara Trierweiler.

Moved by Yeomans, supported by DePotty, to approve the agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

Moved by Weisgerber, supported by Sandborn, to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2008 meeting. Motion carried by voice vote.

There was no public comment.

Bowering briefly reviewed the proposals received last month relative to preparing the county's master plan update and reminded the members that after a lengthy discussion the commission had tabled the issue.

Moved by Weisgerber, supported by DePotty, to remove from the table the master plan update issue in order to allow for further discussion. Motion carried by voice vote.

Commission members offered thoughts on how best to proceed with this matter considering the current master plan does not relate to an enacted county-wide zoning ordinance. While there are other uses for the master plan, the question remains at what intervals updates should occur and how much money should be spent in order to keep it a viable document. Yeomans inquired whether at this time the board of commissioners has a specific direction or goal for the planning commission. Howe stated board members have indicated a desire to invite planning commission members to a committee-of-the-whole meeting at which time future goals could be discussed. It was determined the meeting should be held early next year after the newly elected board establishes its meeting dates and times.

As to the immediate issue of updating the 2002-2022 Master Plan, it was the consensus of the members present to proceed with the planned document conversion process then wait for an early 2009 meeting with the board of commissioners to discuss the future plans and goals of the planning commission.

The commission considered the proposal received from Jeanne Vandersloot to convert the current master plan from a PDF document to a Microsoft Office Word document. Such conversion is needed in order to facilitate future updating and Vandersloot estimated a time frame of two to three months to complete the project. Moved by Weisgerber, supported by DePotty, to accept the proposal submitted by Jeanne Vandersloot in the amount of \$1,400 plus reimbursement for any necessary mileage and ancillary expenses, with such amount expensed to the 2008 Planning Commission activity of the General Fund. Motion carried by voice vote.

Moved by Yeomans, supported by Coe, to adjourn the meeting (6:18 p.m.). Motion carried by voice vote.