

**Calhoun County Metropolitan Planning Commission**  
**Minutes**  
**April 23, 2012**

Present: Comrs. Rebecca Rocho, Daniel Kesselring, Robert Bolton, Larry Rizor, Blaine VanSickle and Kelli Scott. Staff: Planning Consultant Jennifer Bomba, Corporation Counsel Richard Lindsey and Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk Chris McComb.

Excused: Terence Lunger

1. The April 23, 2012 Planning Commission Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.
2. Roll was called by the Deputy Clerk.
3. Approval of Agenda

“Moved Member Rizor, supported by Member Kesselring to approve the April 23, 2012 Planning Commission agenda with the addition of 6 B. Discussion on New Planning Commissioner Members.”

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED.

4. Public Comment

There was none.

5. Approval of February 27, 2012 Meeting Minutes

“Moved Member VanSickle, supported by Member Rizor to approve the February 27, 2012 Metropolitan Planning Commission minutes as presented.”

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED.

6. Communication

A. Planning Director Bomba presented a meeting notice from the City of Battle Creek for information, noting they were reviewing a couple special use permits and their zoning code.

B. Discussion on New Planning Commissioner Members

Member Rocho inquired if there was a timeline for adding someone.

Planning Director Bomba stated they were close to getting past the Master Plan amendment so now they could look at officials to fill the open positions. She stated statutorily they had three years and would be looking for up to four individuals. She had done research on who could fill the positions and would be able to spend time educating new people on the Master Plan once it was done, not while they were making amendments.

Member Rizor stated he was concerned about having county employees serving on a county board because it seemed like double coverage.

Bomba stated there were only a couple positions county people could fill and employees could abstain from a vote that had specifically to do with what they do. The ordinance did pass with the potential that there would be county people on the boards but it was important to have private sector folks as well.

Corporation Counsel Lindsey stated the Legislative Liaisons approved the Address Ordinance and it would be going to the Board for approval. The new ordinance relieves the Planning Commission of their review board duties.

7. New Business
  - a. Calhoun County Trailway Alliance Proposed Trailway Through the Ott Preserve

Bomba noted Rizor was the President of the Calhoun County Trailway Alliance and they were working toward the acceptance of DNR funds.

Rizor explained the Calhoun County Trailway Alliance (CCTA) was a fundraising group for the county. He then explained the proposed trailway through the Ott Biological Preserve that would be put before the Board of Commissioners for their approval.

“Moved Member Kesselring, supported by Member Rizor the Calhoun County Planning Commission supports the trailway going through the Ott Preserve County Park in a manner the County Board of Commissioners determines minimally impacts the Ott Preserve and meets the MDOT, DNR and DEQ funding and permitting requirements.”

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED.

8. Township Planning & Zoning
  - a. 4-12-01, Newton Township: PA 116 Application for Michael & Kathryn Kile

Staff recommended for approval.

“Moved Bolton, supported by Kesselring for approval of 4-12-01, Newton Township: PA 116 for Michael & Kathryn Kile.”

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED.

b. Casino Corridor

Lindsey stated the casino corridor committee has suggested a hiring a consultant to explore the opportunities for coordinated land use and zoning along the corridor. Planning Consultant Bomba will develop the proposal and present it to the FireKeppers Local Revenue Sharing Board for funding consideration.

Administrator/Controller Scott stated that they need to focus on an end product and implementation efforts.

9. Department Report

A. Calhoun County Master Plan

Bomba reviewed the five year update of the Master Plan which the Commission had decided in 2010 to look at amending the demographic information. She noted it was mostly word smithing and clean up and the County population was stable but the urban areas and rental occupancy was growing.

Member Rocho stated they needed to pay attention to residential studies and look at a more mixed residential plan. She also expressed a need to still look at the link between agriculture and commercial/industrial . What was the mix of commercial agriculture vs. farmland preservation and had they captured it. It was noted that an asset map would be beneficial Jennifer responded that such a map may not be feasible in the time frame we are looking at, but could be included with future amendments.

10. Member Comments

There were none.

11. Public comments

There were none.

12. Announcements

The Calhoun County Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2012, time to be confirmed.

14. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Chris McComb  
Deputy Clerk