

Calhoun County Metropolitan Planning Commission
Minutes
June 25, 2012

Present: Comrs. Rebecca Rocho, Daniel Kesselring, Robert Bolton, Kelli Scott, and Blaine VanSickle.

Staff: Planning Consultant Jennifer Bomba.

Excused: Terence Lunger, Larry Rizor

1. The June 25, 2012 Planning Commission Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Roll was called.

3. Approval of Agenda

“Moved by VanSickle, supported by Bolton to approve the June 25, 2012 Planning Commission agenda as presented.”

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED.

4. Public Comment

There was none.

5. Approval of April 23, 2012 Meeting Minutes

“Moved by Kesselring, supported by VanSickle to approve the April 23, 2012 Planning Commission minutes with the following corrections: replacing throughout the document Planning Director with Planning Consultant; deleting the additional “a” in Item 8b.; clarifying the statement made by member Rocho in Item 9a regarding housing studies and the link between failing schools and low income housing; and replacing March 26, 2012 with June 25, 2012 in Item 12.

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED.

6. Communication

Jennifer noted the cancellation notice for the City of Battle Creek Planning Commission meeting.

8. Department Report

A. Calhoun County Master Plan

Planning Consultant Bomba lead discussion on the latest amendments to the County Master Plan text. Member Rocho noted that the idea of transferability of food science/safety professionals to other local industries is not mentioned and could be a good plan for maintaining workforce. Member Kesselring noted the benefit of floodplains as temporary storage of storm water, as well as the benefit of

connected natural resource corridors that function as habitat corridors. Discussion also focused on population projections for the county. Member Kesselring shared a variety of thoughts in writing that Jennifer will review. Planning Consultant Bomba will make amendments to include the items discussed and present a new draft at the next Planning Commission meeting.

10. Member Comments

Member VanSickle asked if the County Planning Commission/Department could assist in any way with a non compliance issue in Fredonia Township regarding a porta-potty business on Old 27. Jennifer noted that while it is not our authority, she will discuss the issue with the Township Zoning Administrator. Member Rocho included that a complaint has been made regarding a small engine repair business that is non-compliant with Fredonia Township zoning, also located on Old 27. Jennifer will mention this incident as well.

Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott informed members of Enbridge plans to replace 5 miles of pipeline in Calhoun County. Enbridge has been working with property owners regarding easement compensation. Property owners have until July 6th to settle or Enbridge will begin eminent domain proceedings. Member Scott also informed members of an initiative she has been involved in regarding regional economic development. She has been meeting regularly with County Administrators in 8 other southwest Michigan counties. An outcome of the meetings will be the development of a regional transportation planning commission that will assist in pulling available funds to our area for transportation related projects.

Member Rocho recommended members follow House Bill 5340 which proposes an increase in the interest rate (from 1% to 4%) paid by local units of government in property tax appeals.

11. Public comments

There were none.

12. Announcements

The next Calhoun County Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2012, at 4:00 p.m.

14. Adjournment

“Moved by VanSickle, supported by Kesselring to adjourn the June 25, 2012 Calhoun County Planning Commission meeting at 5:50 pm.”

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Bomba
Planning Consultant