

ALLEGAN TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

January 10, 2011

7:30 PM

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Vice Chairman Skoglund called meeting to order at 7:30 PM with Terry Skoglund, Holly Hough, and John Palenick present.
 - b. Absent was Ted Heckman.
 - c. Also present were prospective Planning Commission members Jim Connell and Marty Ruiters; as well as Supervisor Steve Schulz and Clerk/Recording Secretary Linda Evans.

- II. Approve Minutes of November 8, 2010 Meeting
 - A. Hough/Palenick made motion to approve minutes which passed with an aye vote.

- III. Swear in Re-Appointed Ted Heckman
 - A. He was not present.

- IV. Election of Officers
 - A. Chairman
 1. Skoglund noted he has been the Vice-Chairman for the past four years and commented on what was written on the agenda that stated "Township Attorney Lohrstorfer, in repeated conversations with Supervisor Schulz, has indicated the Chairman of the Planning Commission should not also be the Chairman of the Board of Appeals because of the possibility of a conflict of interest."
 - a. He also indicated his willingness to be Chairman.
 2. Supervisor Schulz reiterated Lohrstorfer's comments to him regarding it not be a good idea with Hough asking when it changed as he thought it was supposed to be that way and not saying that it hasn't changed.
 - a. Hough also questioned which Chair job Heckman would prefer.
 3. Schulz noted Skoglund has taken the Citizen Planner class, went to the recent Medical Marijuana Class and has been working with City Manager Rob Hillard on the Partnership for Change and not sure Heckman could do that as he doesn't necessarily have the time.
 4. Skoglund made motion to nominated himself as Chair with Palenick seconding the motion which passed unanimously with an aye vote.
 - B. Secretary
 1. Clerk Evans, who was filling in for Recording Secretary Connie Rushmore, noted Rushmore was in Egypt but would still be willing to take the minutes.

- V. Collaboration with the City in Partnership for Change - Report from Terry Skoglund
 - A. Skoglund had a joint meeting with Rob Hillard last Monday with a tele-conference call with LIAA in Traverse City.

1. LIAA stands for Land Information Access Association and this group is able to get grants for studies.
- B. Skoglund explained some of the functions of the Planning Commission have changed and there could be expanding responsibilities therefore he asked the Township Board for three needed members and made recognition of Connell and Ruitter who were present and observing.
- C. He briefly explained LIAA has done jobs in nearby Kalamazoo as well as in his former city of Farmington Hills.
- D. Partnership for Change gives authority to improve an area and provides for funding from matching grants with both Township and City putting in matching amounts as well.
- E. The City and Township are looking at improving M-89/Marshall Street which meets the necessary criteria of being adjacent to each other and also enables both municipalities to find ways to do things together.
- F. City's Planning Commission meeting is next Monday and Skoglund has been invited to attend to report if Township's Planning Commission is willing to move ahead which would mean making a recommendation to the Township Board to jointly approach the City to make application for a grant.
 1. Skoglund asked Board their thought on it and also asked Connell who felt it would be good but asked if LIAA would replace Williams and Works and learned it would be just for this as we would then be able to apply for grant money.
 2. When Ruitter was asked, he was a little foggy on the scope of what we are going to do and learned it is to send a recommendation to the Board to get together with the City and participate in getting a grant.
 3. Skoglund also added we would be dealing with MDOT and businesses along M/89-Marshall Street and also walking and bike trails.
- G. Skoglund/Palenick made motion to recommend to Township Board that we seek to collaborate with the City to make application for a Sustainable Community Grant.
 1. Motion passed following roll call.

VI. Special Meeting on January 24th, 2011

- A. Re-zone of Land Across from Burger King
 1. Schulz explained property is across the street from existing Burger King and pointed out the three parcels considered, noting two lots are actually one parcel and need to be re-zoned to C2 as the front parcel is already zoned commercial.
- B. The current building is rented by Burger King and they would like to own their own building as they also own four other Burger Kings in the area.
- C. The Master Plan does show that area to be commercial.

VII. Update on Medical Marihuana Ordinance

- A. Schulz reported he and Skoglund had gone to a free seminar in Allendale.
- B. There are four cities, of which Wyoming is one, that have said they won't allow medical marijuana and ACLU is taking them to court and so there is no sense

looking at an ordinance right now until the trials are over.

IV. Election of Officers Continued

- A. Recording Secretary Evans noted a Vice-Chair had not yet been elected with Hough/Skoglund making motion to elect Ted Heckman as Vice Chair which passed with an aye vote.

VIII. Adjourn

- A. Hough/Palenick made motion to adjourn with meeting closing at 8:30 PM.