

**Marquette Township Planning Commission – Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, January 8 2020 – 7 p.m.  
Marquette Township Community Center**

Mike Springer called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mike Springer, Dave Wiegand, Steve Heikkinen

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jim Johnson (Excused)

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jason McCarthy – Planning & Zoning

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Pete LaRue, Ryan McEnhill

**ELECTION OF OFFICER:**

**MOTION:** *To nominate Mike Springer as Chairperson of the Planning Commission for 2020.*

*Wiegand, Moved  
Heikkinen, Supported*

**Carried: Unanimously**

**MOTION:** *To nominate Steve Heikkinen as Vice Chairperson of the Planning Commission for 2020.*

*Wiegand, Moved  
Springer, Supported*

**Carried: Unanimously**

**MOTION:** *To nominate Dave Wiegand as Secretary of the Planning Commission for 2020.*

*Springer, Moved  
Heikkinen, Supported*

**Carried: (2-1, Wiegand dissented)**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**MOTION:** *To APPROVE as presented.*

*Wiegand, Moved  
Heikkinen, Supported*

**Carried: Unanimously**

**MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:**

**MOTION:** *To approve the November 13, 2019, as amended.*

*Wiegand, Moved  
Heikkinen, Supported*

**Carried: Unanimously**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Site Plan Review #010820-1. Proposed construction of an 8,704 SF Discount Tire Retail Store to be located on a property located within the General Business (GB) zoning district at 3166 US-41 West.**

McCarthy presented the site plan and background information. He indicated the proposed development includes the consolidation of four driveways down to two shared access drives. A pathway will also be constructed along Wright Street on the East side of the property that will tie into the MDOT shared use pathway, which will be completed in the spring of 2020. The Wright Street/ Discount Tire pathway will extend to the North property line of the proposed Discount Tire parcel. Stormwater for the site is proposed to be conveyed to a shared detention area on the North side of the adjacent parcel. This detail will be finalized in the coming weeks and is a requested condition of approval.

***MOTION: To APPROVE the proposed site plan contingent on the submission and approval of items 3d, 3e, 3f, 3i, and 4, prior to commencement of on-site construction activities including the addition of item 4e as follows; "Mud and dirt deposited on the public ROW shall be removed daily."***

***Wiegand, Moved  
Heikkinen, Supported***

***Carried: Unanimously***

**Planning Commission Meeting Audio on Marquette Township YouTube Channel – Discussion**

McCarthy explained that he received a request from Supervisor Durant, via Clerk Ritari inquiring as to whether or not the Planning Commission would consider placing the meeting audio on the Marquette Township YouTube channel.

The posting of the Planning Commission meetings on YouTube is legally permissible. There is nothing requiring that the audio recording be destroyed once the meeting minutes are recorded, but similarly, there is nothing requiring that they be kept, once the minutes are approved by the Township Board. If the recording is destroyed before approval of the minutes and there is disagreement as to what was decided, it is difficult to resolve that disagreement if the tapes are destroyed.

Posting the meetings on YouTube would preferably include a motion by both the Planning Commission and the Township Board.

Wiegand also discussed the importance of having the ability to video-record Planning Commission meetings at the commission's request.

***MOTION: To request of the Township Board that the Planning Commission audio recordings be placed on the Marquette Township YouTube channel, and that video recordings be made available at the Planning Commission's request.***

***Wiegand, Moved  
Springer, Supported***

***Carried: Unanimously***

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Draft Marijuana Zoning Text Amendment – Discussion**

McCarthy explained that now that the State of Michigan definitions for medical and adult use recreational marijuana establishment types have been incorporated into Article 2 – Definitions, other sections of the ordinance need to be amended to incorporate the intended in order to allow for and regulate those establishment types – mainly *Article – 15 Principal Uses Permitted in Districts, and Article 16 – Detailed Use Regulations.*

*\*A brief discussion ensued. A draft Article – 15 Principal Uses Permitted in Districts and further discussion will occur at the next Planning Commission meeting on January 22, 2020.*

**Lions Field Ice Rink Conceptual Roof Design – Discussion**

McCarthy presented the Recreation Committee’s findings on their task of researching and providing a measure to extend the ice season at the Lions Field ice rink. McCarthy requested that the Planning Commission forward the approval of the findings to the Township Board for their consideration, if amenable.

\*As presented from the Recreation Committee:

*“As a result of the Receptions Committee’s research and collaboration with staff, the following rationale was used to provide the Planning Commission with their recommendation:*

*As requested by the Planning Commission, this Committee did investigate options to extend the ice season. Two options were considered; a roof over the ice rink (at a cost of approximately \$170,000.00) that could extend ice skating for approximately 30 to 45 days annually, and an artificial ice surface (at a cost of approximately \$110,000.00) that would make ice available year-round.*

*While considering artificial ice and observing current summer activities at the rink, it is apparent that year round ice would eliminate roller blading, skateboarding, boot hockey, bicycling and pickle ball, to name a few.*

*Therefore, in the interest of providing recreational opportunities to a broader spectrum of the community, it is recommended that a roof be installed over the ice rink, thereby preserving non-ice activities. In addition to extending the ice season and preserving non-ice activities a roof will address unwanted issues currently being experienced, such as; projectiles leaving the rink and debris entering the rink, as well as providing a more desirable and comfortable environment for summer activities. Additional uses could be expanded to basketball and movie nights, to name a few.”*

**MOTION: To recommend the proposed conceptual plan for the Lions Field Ice Rink roof to the Township Board for their information.**

**Wiegand, Moved  
Springer, Supported**

**Carried: Unanimously**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Sustainable Built Environment initiative (SBEI) Grant – Update**

Springer detailed the first community visioning meeting of the Sustainable Built Environment Initiative (SBEI) on December 16, 2019. Springer indicated that it was a constructive meeting and that he is looking forward to the next step in the grant process.

**US-41 Corridor Advisory Group Meeting Minutes – November 12, 2019**

**Draft Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes – November 19, 2019**

**Draft Road Committee Meeting Minutes – December 3, 2019**

**2020-2024 Marquette Township Master Plan – Update**

McCarthy indicated that a full draft of the updated master Plan will be presented at the January 22, 2020 Planning Commission meeting.

**REPORTS:**

**Township Board Report**

Wiegand reported that the Township Board has been continuing progress on replacement of the Township Manager’s position. He also stated that the Township Board is looking at replacing the Township’s John Deere tractor with a larger piece of equipment that will be more useful overall.

**Road Committee Report**

Wiegand indicated that the RFP for the 2020 Road Maintenance Program has been sent out. Bid results will be reviewed by Road Committee at their February 4<sup>th</sup> meeting and a recommendation to the Township Board for the bid award will also be made at that meeting.

**Recreation Committee Report**

Springer relayed that the Recreation Committee did not meet last month due to the SBEI Grant meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS PLANNING COMMISSIONERS WISH TO MAKE:**

Springer stated that he will be meeting with Planner McCarthy and Supervisor Durant to discuss the replacement for outgoing Planning Commissioner Leanne Kachmarsky.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM

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Dave Wiegand – Planning Commission Secretary