

**Marquette Township Planning Commission – Regular Meeting
Wednesday, February 26, 2014 – 7 p.m.
Marquette Township Community Center**

Chairperson Sargent called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lyn Durant, Dave Wiegand, Jim Johnson, Ellen Sargent

MEMBERS ABSENT: Steve Pelto (Excused)

STAFF PRESENT: Jason McCarthy – Planner & Zoning Administrator, Janelle Ruff – Planning & Zoning Technician

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike Springer, Randy Ritari

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION: *To approve the agenda.*

*Durant, Moved
Wiegand, Supported*

Carried: Unanimously

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: February 12, 2014

MOTION: *To approve the minutes, as amended.*

*Wiegand, Moved
Johnson, Supported*

Carried: Unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ritari explained his recommendation to video record pertinent Planning Commission meetings that have potentially controversial agenda items. Audio is recorded for all meetings and staff will attempt to place the audio files on the Township website for future reference.

Ritari also explained that the Planning Commission has one opportunity to pass meeting minutes from the previous meeting at the next regularly scheduled meeting. The Planning Commission cannot go back and alter the meeting minutes after they have been approved.

Springer requested a public meeting agenda item for the Planning Commission meeting on February 26th to gather 2014 recreation grant application input and public comment. He also stated that he attended the meeting tonight to support the draft Recreation Plan.

NEW BUSINESS:

Consideration of the draft Marquette Township Recreation Plan | 2014 – 2018 - Discussion

McCarthy thanked Durant for her detailed comments and corrections regarding previous drafts of the recreation plan.

Durant stated that she has additional comments for McCarthy on the latest draft of the recreation plan. She also recommended removing the Regional Recreation Authority reference in the draft plan because the study has not been finalized and the Township Board has not yet reviewed the document.

McCarthy responded that he would remove the reference.

Wiegand requested the inclusion of the potential funding source from the Cliffs/Lunding Marquette County Community Grant for the proposed Lions Field Recreation Area project.

McCarthy replied that he would include that in the plan and that the Township has already applied for that grant for 2014.

Johnson requested language to be included in the plan regarding the development of additional neighborhood parks when and where feasible. He explained that he believes there are opportunities to develop smaller parks for younger children in and around the township.

McCarthy stated that he would amend the draft and include additional language for the development of smaller, neighborhood parks when those opportunities arise.

Johnson added that the township is trying to become more “community-orientated” and he believes that neighborhood parks are a way to accomplish that. He also believed that the neighborhoods would welcome those types of parks and assist with implementation.

MOTION: To forward the draft Marquette Township Recreation Plan | 2014-2018 with the inclusion of language regarding neighborhood parks to the Township Board for consideration and adoption.

***Wiegand, Moved
Johnson, Supported***

Durant commented that she was uncomfortable with the recreation plan action plan for the next five years. She also stated that she was not in support of the township board having to budget the proposed amount of money for the current five-year action plan.

Weigand commented that the recreation committee is only planning on utilizing the general budget funding that has been regularly allocated for recreation purposes. The goal is to take that funding and increase it with the assistance of grants.

McCarthy added that the recreation plan is a road map for success with regard to the proposed projects and that the way the draft was formatted was required by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. He added that the township board would also need to approve any expenditure. He stated that recreation plan's action plan is detailed because the recreation committee commissioned two park master plans. The committee was also able to provide detailed cost estimates as a result of the planning exercise.

Durant replied that the explanation made sense. She wanted to make sure that the recreation plan's action plan wasn't tied into the Township's required Capital Improvement Plan.

Carried: Unanimously

OLD BUSINESS:

Proposed Zoning Text & Map Amendment – Discussion

Sargent explained that she and Supervisor Liimatta attended the last City Commission meeting to speak on behalf of the proposed rezoning. She explained to the City Commission initially reviewed proposed text that was drafted prior to the meeting she attended with the City Planning Commission. She explained that all of the comments received by the City Planning Commission have been included in the revised draft text. She hoped that her attendance helped to explain the intent of the proposed amendment.

Sargent requested that the Planning Commission review the Scenic Residential district at the next meeting on March 12th to ensure nothing was overlooked in the draft text for that district.

Sargent also asked if *Solar Energy System* should be included in the land use nomograph as a special use in the Forest Recreation district.

The Planning Commission concurred that it should.

CORRESPONDENCE:

McCarthy explained that a rezoning application was received. The applicant wishes to rezone a parcel of Segregated Business (SB) district property to Resource Production (RP) in order to establish a homestead and fruit/flower farm. McCarthy requested that the Planning Commission review the application at their March 12th meeting so that the property may be included in the proposed zoning map change.

Ruff added that the subject property has been difficult to perform property maintenance on and that anything that could be done to maintain and improve the property would be supported by her.

McCarthy will provide additional information at the March 12th Planning Commission meeting.

REPORTS:

Ruff distributed the township's commercial permit report for 2013 from the Marquette County Building Codes Department.

Durant reviewed and distributed a memo she wrote regarding the Firewise presentation that she attended earlier in the week.

McCarthy would like to have the Superior Watershed Partnership attend a future Planning Commission meeting to discuss their climate change document.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ritari commented that the snow removal of the maintenance strips on the north side of Werner Street haven't been maintained as well as they were last winter.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS PLANNING COMMISSIONERS WISH TO MAKE:

Wiegand added that once the larger planning and zoning projects are complete, he hoped that the Planning Commission would explore design standards and an excessive snow removal standard or ordinance.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM

MOTION: To adjourn the Planning Commission meeting.

Durant, Moved

Johnson, Supported

Carried: Unanimously

Lyn Durant, Secretary