

**Marquette Township Planning Commission – Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 23, 2016 – 7 p.m.
Marquette Township Community Center**

Chariperson Pelto called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Pelto, Dave Wiegand, Randy Ritari

MEMBERS ABSENT: Frank Chiodi (Excused), Jim Johnson (Not excused)

STAFF PRESENT: Jason McCarthy, Janelle Ruff

OTHERS PRESENT: None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

*Wiegand, Moved
Ritari, Supported*

Carried: Unanimously

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

MOTION: *To approve the February 10, 2016 Planning Commission meeting minutes as presented.*

*Ritari, Moved
Wiegand, Supported*

Carried: Unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

General Business (GB) & Development District (DD) Zoning District Development Design Standards – Draft Ordinance Discussion

McCarthy explained the details of the staff report and that based on comments received from the last meeting, the changes have been made to the draft ordinance. McCarthy added that additional correspondence was received from Michael Conter.

McCarthy suggested that the Planning Commission hold a work session sometime in April or May to discuss the draft ordinance with developers, business owners, and real estate representatives.

The Planning Commission agreed.

Access Management Regulations vs. Zoning Ordinance Provisions – Discussion

McCarthy explained a conflict in the zoning ordinance versus Access Management principles (also found in the zoning ordinance). Access management is a zoning tool to provide better traffic circulation, as well as limiting driveway entrance distances for safety, etc. However, the zoning ordinance has provisions that prohibit commercial development traffic from egressing onto local roads.

McCarthy further explained that if Marquette Township wants to continue to provide alternatives for residents to utilize local roads to travel to commercial businesses instead of the US-41 corridor, the Planning Commission may want to consider amending those provisions in the ordinance that prohibit commercial driveways from the rear or side yard of a commercial development. McCarthy suggested making the provision allowable by a special use permit and limiting the commercial business traffic to passenger vehicles and not heavy truck traffic.

Wiegand suggested developing distinction between roads with regard to their functional classification (primary, collector, etc.).

The Planning Commission agreed to review a revised draft of what the ordinance amendment would look like at their next meeting. Staff will prepare.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

CORRESPONDENCE:

McCarthy distributed the 2016 MDOT Ishpeming TSC Construction Project Program

McCarthy stated that he would provide the City of Marquette with a letter of support for their 2016 Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund (MNRTF) Grant application.

REPORTS:

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

McCarthy explained the goal of having the Township Board of Trustees support a one year, one mil Downtown Development Authority (DDA) tax levy in order to provide funding for an expanded US-41 highway corridor study. This study would research the potential addition of lighting, aesthetics, and pedestrian enhancements to the planned Michigan Department of Transportation highway resurfacing projects in Marquette Township in 2019 and 2021.

Wiegand stated that the aluminum benches at the Lions Field Warming Building have been delivered.

Ritari reported that the video cameras have also been installed at Lions Field.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS PLANNING COMMISSIONERS WISH TO MAKE:

None.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM

MOTION: ***To adjourn the Planning Commission meeting.***

Ritari, Moved

Wiegand, Supported

Carried: Unanimously

Randy Ritari, Secretary