

**Calhoun County Metropolitan Planning Commission**  
**Minutes**  
**MARCH 28, 2011**

Present: Comrs. Daniel Kesselring, Robert Bolton, Larry Rizor and Terance Lunger, Staff: Planning Consultant Jennifer Bomba, Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk Chris McComb and Corporation Counsel Richard Lindsey

Excused: Comrs. Dian Schubel, Rebecca Rocho and Blaine VanSickle

1. Meeting was called to order: 4:00 p.m.
2. Roll was called by the Deputy Clerk.
3. Approval of Agenda

“Moved Rizor, supported by Lunger to approve the March 28, 2011 County Metropolitan Planning Commission agenda as presented.”

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED

4. Public Comments

There were none.

5. Approval of minutes:

“Moved Bolton, supported by Rizor to approve the January 24, 2011 Calhoun County Planning Commission minutes as presented.”

6. Township Planning and Zoning Coordination

The Planning office received notice from Eaton County that they were sending out their draft County Master Plan for review and the date of their public hearing. They CCMPC will be taking action at their April meeting and sending comments. Calhoun County uses the same process.

Comr. Lunger inquired why the Plan is sent to other communities for review.

Planning Consultant Bomba stated that it's an effort to be more regional in planning and it is was required by statute to do it now. It is useful, especially when you see other communities that are more progressive. She stated the Plans are provided for informational use.

Comr. Rizor inquired how Eaton County does zoning but Calhoun County doesn't.

Planning Consultant Bomba stated that some of their townships have given the County them the authority for planning and zoning and they do some, not all. She also stated that Barry County does ~~do~~ all of their zoning.

Comr. Rizer inquired if that was something that could be proposed to the townships.

Planning Consultant Bomba stated that the Commission could propose that, as it is more effective and there is more incentive to do intergovernmental cooperation. She stated there may be some that would give the authority to the County, but no one really wants to take the first step.

7. Department report

A. Address appeal status report

Corporation Counsel Lindsey stated Nancy Mullett was representing SouthSide Veterinary Clinic and her argument was that there wasn't sufficient evidence to change the name ~~including and~~ the emergency incident ~~wasn't enough to change it~~. Lindsey stated his argument was that this incident highlighted the need. He stated the judge will look at whether there was enough evidence for the Planning Commission to make the decision it did, not whether it was or was not the right decision. Mr. Lindsey stated he believed the information was there to make the decision. He stated it would probably be the end of April for the hearing. He stated if the judge decides that the Planning Commission did something wrong, he will send it back and that would only apply to the address of the one who is arguing. He stated at that time the process would be much the same. He stated Ms. Mullett ~~indicated stated~~ she was going to seek damages and attorney fees, but it's not in the paperwork and there would be no basis for awarding such things. He stated she pulled out part of a quote and summarized it instead of pulling the actual motion from the remand. ~~and at that time~~ Mr. Lindsey believes that the decision to remand the matter back to the Road Commission was made because there wasn't enough information in order to act, so the Commission sent it back, got the information and made a decision.

Planning Consultant Bomba inquired if any of the Commissioners need to be there.

Corporation Counsel Lindsey stated that everything was just between the attorneys and the Commissioners did not need to be there. He stated the Township never changed its mind, though they are trying to say they did. He stated that personally some of them might have but there was never any action on it.

Bomba inquired if there would be a new process given to the Commissioners if it is sent back by the Judge so they do things differently.

Lindsey stated that the Judge would give the Commissioners a written guideline to follow if it comes back to them for more action.

Bomba stated that the data is not changing so if the Commission needs a different process, they need to know what it is so they know what they are doing wrong.

Bomba stated there were 4 appeals and inquired if the other people who contested complied and is there enforcement for the change process.

Lindsey stated he believed most people had complied and SouthSide had changed their number but not the street name.

B. 2010 Annual Report

Planning Consultant Bomba presented the draft of a report outlining the Planning Commission's actions for 2010 to the Board of Commissioners. ~~This, which~~ is a new requirement from the Michigan Planning and Enabling Act. She stated the report draft can be submitted in written form but she would like to make a presentation and that this is a Planning Commission report not a Planning Department Report. She stated the Planning Commission will adopt the report at their April meeting and it will go to the Board of Commissioners in May.

Comr. Lunger commented he believed this is a great overview of the Planning Commission and it will help with recruiting.

Bomba stated it is required by all Planning Commissions now. She stated it is a nice overview, it shows what the Commission is doing and the Commissioners can send comments to her.

Comr. Bolton stated that in other communities the Planning Commission works closely with the Parks Commission.

C. 2010 Census Data

Planning Consultant Bomba stated that ~~basic the~~ 2010 Census Data was released last week; graphs and data were given to the Commissioners. She stated they show growth patterns and what they mean. She stated it looks like more of the County entities lost than gained. She stated Marshall City is pretty much built out and there isn't much room for more development, Marshall and Marengo townships are gaining, Fredonia is losing, Eckford is gaining. ~~She stated she would like to look at their Planning.~~ She explained the population data and stated a lot of the analyzed data isn't available yet but she will present more data as it becomes available.

D. County master plan update

Planning consultant Bomba stated that she was waiting on demographic components to go into a fully fledged update of the Master Plan and with the plan will come the new bylaws. She stated there is a lot happening behind the scenes and she is introducing the concept of the plan to townships. She stated she is working with administration on the potential of joint planning in the casino corridor. She stated the Tribe has stated they would like more info on Land Use Planning around the casino. She stated there are lots of discussions going on for the County to lead and the Eaton County Plan will be good for the Commission to review and get ideas from.

Bomba stated that as part of address appeal process, the Road Commission is sending reports on new addresses. She stated there are 52 new addresses in the County, 40 of which are in Leroy Township. She commented that it is a nice addition of information and something to look at on a regular basis

8. Staff and Member Comments

Comr. Rizer asked the Commissioners to support the Ott Preserve and attend the Board of Commissioners' meeting on April 7. He stated the idea of the trail is to have the most enriching experience and to explore the natural resources.

12. Public comments

There were no Public Comments.

13. Announcements

The next meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2011 at 4:00 p.m.

14. Adjournment

The March 28, 2011 Calhoun County Metropolitan Planning Commission meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris McComb  
Deputy Clerk