

Calhoun County Metropolitan Planning Commission
Minutes
January 30, 2012

Present: Comrs. Daniel Kesselring, Robert Bolton, Larry Rizor, and Blaine VanSickle. Staff: Planning Consultant Jennifer Bomba and Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk Chris McComb.

Excused: Terence Lunger and Rebecca Rocho

1. The January 30, 2012 Planning Commission Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.
2. Roll was called by the Deputy Clerk.
3. Approval of Agenda

“Moved VanSickle, supported by Rizor to approve the January 30, 2012 Planning Commission agenda with the addition of 1-12-04 under Agenda Item 8 - Township Planning and Zoning Coordination and Member Rizor will present a brief update on the Calhoun County Trailway during Member Comments.”

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED.

4. Public Comment

There was none.
5. Election of Officers
 - A. Chairperson

Planning Consultant Bomba stated the Michigan Planning requirements only call for the Commission to have a Chairperson and a Secretary. Bomba noted a Vice Chair is not required but if they did not have one, it would be questionable who should run a meeting when the Chair was absent.

Member Bolton nominated Member Rizor for Chair, Member Rizor declined.

“Moved Rizor to nominate Member Rocho as the 2012 Planning Commission Chairperson in a unanimous ballot, supported by VanSickle.”

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED.

- B. Vice Chair

“Moved Bolton to nominate Member Kesselring to serve as the 2012 Vice Chair of the Planning Commission, VanSickle supported.”

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED.

C. Secretary

“Moved VanSickle to nominate Member Rizor as the 2012 Secretary of the Planning Commission by a unanimous vote, supported by Bolton.”

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED.

6. Approval of November 28, 2011 Meeting Minutes

“Moved Rizor, supported by VanSickle to approve the November 28, 2011 Metropolitan Planning Commission.”

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED.

7. Communication

a. Calhoun County Address Report, Calhoun County Road Commission, 2011 Summary

Planning Consultant Bomba stated the Calhoun County Address Report was submitted by the Road Commission for informational purposes . The report can give an idea of where new developments are taking place, generally residential.

b. Notice of Intent to Prepare the Concord Area Master Plan, January 11, 2012

Planning Consultant Bomba stated a Notice of Intent was received from the Township of Concord but she had not received the language yet. She stated when the document was received it could be reviewed to see if anything rolls over to Calhoun County. Member Rizor stated the Falling Water Trail extends from Jackson to Concord and he would like to see it extended to Homer Township.

c. Calhoun Conservation District, Watershed Planning Meeting, January 20, 2012

Planning Consultant Bomba stated correspondence had been received from the Conservation District announcing a watershed planning meeting for the Four Tribes Watershed. Jennifer noted that the Conservation District is working with MDEQ and has developed a wetland functionality test that can be used by the townships in their land use decision making. The meeting will take place on February 6 and she will be attending. She noted the County has assisted with the project by providing parcel data for their mapping efforts. Bomba stated this was one of the ways the Planning Commission can get involved with the townships and their planning.

d. City of Battle Creek, Planning Commission Meeting Notice, January 25, 2012

Planning Consultant Bomba presented the City of Battle Creek Planning Commission meeting notice for informational purposes.

8. Township Planning & Zoning Coordination

- a. 1-12-01, Leroy Township: Zoning Text Amendment re: Medical Marijuana

Staff recommend for approval with comment about the need of a definition.

“Moved Rizor, supported by VanSickle for approval of 1-12-01, Leroy Township: Zoning Text Amendment re: Medical Marijuana with comment, add primary caregiver definition.”

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED.

- b. 1-12-02, Eaton County: Eaton County Master Plan Amendment

Staff recommended for approval.

“Moved Rizor, supported by Bolton for approval of 1-12-02, Eaton County: Eaton County Master Plan Amendment.”

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED.

- c. 1-12-03, Kunkel: PA 116 Termination Request

Staff recommended for approval with contingencies.

“Moved Rizor, supported by VanSickle to approve 1-12-03, Kunkel: PA116 termination subject to this parcel being selected, contracted and approved for the stated soil removal project for Enbridge by the DEQ and DNR.”

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED.

- d. 1-12-04, Leroy Township: Zoning Text and Map Amendments regarding Official Zoning Map

Staff recommended for approval.

“Moved VanSickle, supported by Bolton to approve 1-12-04, Leroy Township: Zoning Text and Map Amendments regarding Official Zoning Map.”

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED.

9. Department Report

There was none.

10. Calhoun County Planning Commission 2011 Annual Report

Planning Consultant Bomba stated the 2011 Annual Report would be submitted to the BOC at an upcoming meeting. The Annual Report was a summary of what was done over the year and this year the format has changed to include a summary of cases. She noted that last year a presentation of the report was made to the Board of Commissioners.

Member Rizor stated one can interpret the Michigan Planning and Enabling Act as challenging counties to take a bigger part in their future and he believed the Planning Commission should propose to the County Commissioners that we need a more proactive rather than reactive stance. The government has been encouraging collaboration for a more open, efficient way of governing and it seemed there was a lot that was fragmented with all the different entities. He believed there needed to be a better, more efficient way of delivering services. There should be more involvement in township planning by the county and they should not rely on small communities to have control. He believed they should look at the whole area to see how the county could become more efficient and in control.

Member VanSickle stated when he was Drain Commissioner, he noticed all entities had different sets of rules and regulations and he would like to see county wide rules and regulations.

Member Rizor handed out a school site plan review from the state. He stated he thought the county should develop formats like this to be sure they collect all the information. He believed government things should flow from the state to the county to the citizens

11. Calhoun County Master Plan Amendment

Planning Consultant Bomba stated the Master Plan Amendment was nearing completion.; she would not be waiting for any more census information. She stated they would need a work session where they could have an informal discussion of the amendments. She noted she had changed the format to be more visually appealing with some text changes. Bomba stated she would like the Commission to look at the plan at the February meeting so they will need to schedule time to accommodate the longer meeting.

12. Member Comments

Member Rizor stated he heard at a Calhoun County Parks meeting downed timber in Kimball Pines was discussed. Planning Consultant Bomba stated it would come before the Planning Commission in February, as the parks division had received quotes but the county was deciding what it wanted to do. She noted that Member Kesselring would be going to Kimball Pines to see what the scope of work was. Member Rizor believed county land should be managed by the Planning Commission.

Member Rizor discussed the Trailway Master Plan. He displayed a map showing roadways north and south of river and stated they are identifying land owned by government entities so they could see what opportunities there was to get off the roadway with the path. The estimated mileage from the Kalamazoo to Jackson county lines was 51 1/2 miles and there was about 17 miles of trail already built. He stated there was a preliminary budget of \$24-28 million for the whole project. Kalamazoo County has built in sections but they haven't finished. Michigan Department of Transportation had a grant process for non-motorized pathway funding so they were going to check into that and they had approached petroleum based companies trying to get them to fund match for the Enbridge grant match. The Kellogg Corporation is also interested in the project. Rizor stated they were working on raising funds to put

toward the endowment, as they needed to raise \$14 million and \$4 million of that was for the endowment of the Calhoun County Trail. The City of Battle Creek will be asked to improve their trail and the trailway group would provide long term maintenance of the trail. The City of Marshall was getting \$100,000 from Enbridge to extend their trail. Eventually the group would like to connect to the Falling Waters Trail in Jackson County. He stated MDOT was pushing for them to start construction on the trail this year and they needed \$.5 mil to start. He stated it was a difficult time to ask for money but they were working on behalf of Calhoun County.

13. Public comments

There were none.

14. Announcements

The next meeting is scheduled for February 27, 2012, time to be confirmed.

15. Adjournment

“Moved VanSickle, supported by Bolton to adjourn the January 30, 2012 Calhoun County Metropolitan Planning Commission meeting at 5:45 pm.”

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Chris McComb
Deputy Clerk