

CITY OF ALLEGAN and Allegan Township
Joint PLANNING COMMISSION and Parks Commission MEETING
October 20, 2014
Griswold Auditorium
401 Hubbard Street Allegan MI 49010

MINUTES

1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm, by Chairperson Brad Burke.

2) Attendance

Present: Charles Tripp, Brad Burke, Betty McDaniel, Cindy Manning, Sally Sturgis,
Stacie Gratz, Dr. Peter Savage, Cindy Thiele, Thomas Morton

Absent: n/a

Others Present: Tasha Smalley (ZA), Rob Hillard, Deb Leverage, Andy Moore, Terry Skoglund, Karl Spreitzer, Marty Ruitter, Steve Schulz, Mike Buese, Hollis Hough, Ted Heckman, Jim Connell, Aaron Haskin, Mark Bauer, Greg Penny

3) Approval of minutes from September 15, 2014

Stacie Gratz made a motion to approve meeting minutes. Motion was supported by Peter Savage. Motion passed by acclamation.

4) Public Hearing – none

5) New Business –

A. Master Plan – update discussion – Andy Moore, Williams and Works

Andy Moore, Williams and Works, presented a Power Point presentation for the upcoming Master Plan review and update. The City and Township are reviewing MP's at the same time. There will be two plans, but parts of the plans will join together our common goals and concerns. Overview of the process: MP is required to be reviewed every 5 yrs per MZEA. Review to make sure the plan still meets City/Twp goals. Coordinate planning efforts-plans that have been compiled i.e. M89 plan, Parks, downtown, riverfront. Engage the public on land use. Combine those plans and plans the Township may have into the MP. Noteable principles from the plans: CIA, traffic flow, mixed use, non-motorized, continue Twp and City coordination, identity and placemaking, traffic calming access management. Trends: City of Allegan grew 3%, median age lowered. Township grew 9% and median age increased. Andy opened the floor for discussion – is the MP effective: Betty McDaniel stated issues along M-89 (Marshall St) going down to 3 lanes and M-40 also. There are plans in the works for issues addressed, resurface Marshall St, work on Hooker Road curve for pedestrian safety into the city, working on bike paths to get through town safely. Jim Connell met with the Road Commission to tell them of concerns; when they do road repairs and such to make the shoulder wider for bikers. Karl Spreitzer stated to make Allegan a destination. Either by bike, kayak, hiking, shopping. “how do we let people know what Allegan has”. Cindy Thiele stated hiking is becoming more popular, with the Allegan Forest so close, we could use that. Brad Burke stated Geo-Caching, very popular game destination. It is like a scavenger hunt, good way to see Allegan and the surrounding area. Rob Hillard was encouraging that our plans mean something the MDOT. We put a lot of work into those plans and we (City/Twp) have goals and a plan. That is very high in our favor. The river and lakes...making those access points to the City/Twp. Re-developing the Mill District, so much potential in that area. The City and Township host the County facilities. Now that the jail moved, what to do with the property of the old jail. Cindy Thiele stated that housing for the elderly is needed. There are those that do not qualify or can't afford the new senior housing facility. Babyboomers, people living longer, couples want smaller homes, no yard to mow or remove snow; facilities close to town would benefit this group of people. Need for job creation areas – City and Township work together for companies who want to locate in the City or Township. We can work together to accommodate the need. Ending thoughts: Andy will email the power point for reference. Timeline: update the census data, meeting with the public for input

(TBD, January-ish), revise and update policies where needed, review draft plan, 42 day review, public hearing and adoption, 9-12 month process.

B. Allegan U-Stor Site Plan Review – mis-print for the agenda, not reviewing

C. Courthouse Square property discussion

Karl Spreitzer discussed what to do with the area where the jail will be removed. The property belongs to the County. Rumor is the County will be using the property for parking. Karl proposed his idea for the space. Landscaped area with paved walkway and every few feet have a plaque with a history fact on it (famous person, event, town, township, etc). All members present liked the idea. Sally Sturgis added maybe a winter theme for ice skating. The County could still have spaces for parking. There was discussion about how to get this idea to the County Commissioners and how to get a plan drawn. Commissions want to get together in November to create a plan to present.

6) Old Business

A. RRC training – Grand Rapids Nov 20 & 21 and Kalamazoo Dec 17 & 18

Please be sure to sign up if you want to attend. If you have questions, feel free to ask Rob Hillard.

B. Goals...

2014/2015 goals discussed; working on goals with this joint township and park commission meeting.

7) Communications/Correspondence- none

8) Education – none

9) Public Comment - none

10) Commission Comment- none

11) Future meeting dates.....next regular scheduled meeting November 17, 2014

12) Adjournment

Cindy Thiele made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was supported by Stacie Gratz. Motion passed by acclamation. -8:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Tasha Smalley

Zoning Administrator