

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
PLANNING-CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMISSION
CITY OF LOWELL, MICHIGAN**

For the Regular Meeting of the Planning-Citizen Advisory Commission April 28, 2008 at 7 p.m.

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair LaPonsie and the Clerk called the Roll.

Present: Commissioners Berry, Dimmick, Doyle, Hodges, Jahnke and Chair LaPonsie.

Absent: Commissioner Noall.

Also Present: City Manager David Pasquale, City Clerk Betty Morlock, DPW Director Dan DesJarden, Mayor Jeanne Shores, Building Inspector Doug Hopkins and Arbor Board and Lowell Light and Power Boardmember Jim Hall.

IT WAS MOVED BY BERRY and seconded by HODGES to excuse the absence of Commissioner Noall.

City Clerk Morlock believed Commissioner Noall was absent due to attending a class.

YEA: 6. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

IT WAS MOVED BY JAHNKE and seconded by DIMMICK to approve the minutes for the regular meeting of March 24, 2008 as written.

YEA: 6. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

Item #1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA.**

IT WAS MOVED BY JAHNKE and seconded by BERRY to approve the agenda as written.

YEA: 6. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

Item #2. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS/ON GOING BUSINESS.**

A. Master Plan Map Amendments – further review. At its April 7 meeting, the City Council directed these added properties be included for master plan map amendments as noted. The Parks and Recreation Commission gave its review at their April 19 meeting.

- Upper Bridge Park (north side of Grand River Dr., east of Division Street)
Existing land use – from vacant to park and recreation
Future land use – from flood plain to park
- McMahon Park (Shepard Drive)
Future land use – from single family 1 to public (utility)

- Recreation Park
Future land use from public to park
Wastewater Treatment Plant – public
- Moose and Rogers property (east side of Flat River north of Grand River)
Future land use – public to park

Parks and Recreation Commissioner Jim Hall mentioned the islands between Recreation Park and the Moose and Rogers properties also need to be considered.

The North Washington Street property has also been included within the parks. However, it still needs to go through the process. The lines for Stoney Lakeside Park were corrected for park designation.

Chair LaPonsie questioned if there was access to the islands. Commissioner Jahnke responded yes. Hall stated the designation would allow for funding from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the RV park. Hall explained the three islands south of Main Street, within the Flat River are included.

IT WAS MOVED BY JAHNKE and seconded by DOYLE to recommend to City Council approval of distribution of new maps as described above and return back to the Planning Commission for public hearing and reviewing.

YEA: 6. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

B. Joint Planning Commission meetings with the townships – review of the April 24 meeting.

Chair LaPonsie stated there was a good turnout and representation from the two townships. All the City Planning Commission members attended the meeting, except for Commissioners Berry and Noall. Lowell Township had five members attend, while the Supervisor and three other Planning Commission members represented Vergennes Township.

Discussion consisted of the City's lighting ordinance, plans for the North Washington property, and development of corridors. There was also discussion with Vergennes Township regarding any further development on North Hudson and Lincoln Lake.

Lowell Township indicated their Master Plan will be updated as well as creating an ordinance for wind power. Vergennes Township already has an ordinance dealing with this issue. LaPonsie was unsure if this needed to be addressed by the City.

Commissioner Dimmick stated the consensus from the townships was an ordinance could be established but ultimately the State will be issuing regulations on wind mills.

City Manager Pasquale noted Walgreens will be submitting a site plan at the next meeting. The access will be off of Bowes Road in the City. However, most of the development will be in Lowell Township. Pasquale stated Walgreens will install a sidewalk along Bowes Road and M21. Over the next few years, Bowes will be upgraded with curb and gutter and sidewalks will

be extended the full length to the City Limits.

Commissioner Hodges stated there was also discussion regarding the downtown street lighting. It appears the townships are more restrictive than the City. Lowell Township also raised some concerns regarding advertising within the City.

LaPonosie mentioned the meeting went well. Dave Simmons from Lowell Township will provide the agenda for the next meeting in October.

- C. Joint signage ordinance with Lowell Charter Township – update. Commissioner Jahnke indicated he and Dennis Sanford from Lowell Township will meet soon.
- D. Off Street Parking Lighting Section of the Zoning Ordinance. Commissioner Jahnke stated on May 3, 2008 at 9:00 p.m. everyone is welcome to meet at Optec, Inc.'s parking lot to review the off street parking lighting.
- E. Civil Infractions Ordinance. City Manager Pasquale stated this is still being worked out. Hopefully, he will have something by the next meeting.

Item #3. **BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT.** No comments received.

Item #4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS.** No comments were received.

Item #5. **COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS.** Commissioner Jahnke stated O.E. Bieri and Sons mining operation has a special use permit which should be reviewed. City Manager Pasquale stated this can be placed on the next meeting's agenda.

Pasquale noted the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 27, 2008 due to Memorial Day observance.

Commissioner Berry stated this was his last meeting. It has been a fairly enjoyable experience. He thanked Mayor Shores for the opportunity and everyone on the Commission for sharing their knowledge and expertise. He has learned a lot and has much more appreciation of what goes on.

Commissioner Doyle appreciated the lighting definitions.

Chair LaPonsie stated Commissioner Berry will be missed.

LaPonsie questioned if everyone received the email regarding the long grass letters from Jim Hall. There has been some discussion about possibly changing the grass cutting ordinance to allow vacant lots to remain uncut. Commissioner Hodges believed Hall was proposing a one year moratorium to determine how it would go. Pasquale noted this was originally raised by Charlie Bernard. Hodges explained the thought is to save money and time. Hodges suggested the City require the lawn be

mowed six feet into the lot.

LaPonsie proposed the Council be asked if this is an item they would wish the Commission to pursue and if so put it on the next agenda.

Hall believed the City mows a great deal of property. This could help save manpower and gas. Such properties would not affect anyone if left unmowed. Residential would not be included.

IT WAS MOVED BY DIMMICK to adjourn at 7:35 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

Maryalene LaPonsie, Chairman

Betty R. Morlock, City Clerk