

Schoolcraft Township Planning Commission

Minutes for: Monday, August 7, 2023

Commissioners:

Name	Present	Absent
Barry Visel (Chairman)	X	
David Aubry (Vice Chairman)	X	
Rich Bailey	X	
Eric Jasiak		X
Tamra Stafford	X	
Jim Jastifer	X	
Nathan Miersma	X	

Also present:

Name	Description
Don Ulsh	Township Supervisor
Brian Pittelko	Consultant, W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research

Call to order

Chairman Visel opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of agenda

Vice Chair Aubry moved to approve agenda, supported by Commissioner Stafford. Motion carried 6-0.

Approval of previous meeting minutes

Commissioner Stafford motioned to approve the minutes of July 10, 2023 as presented, seconded by Vice Chair Aubry. Motion carried 6-0.

Public comments / citizen time:

None

New business

a. Site plan review – Schoolcraft Dog Training (Sherri Sibert)

Vice Chair Aubry motioned to approve the site plan as presented, subject to waiving maximum height restrictions pending additional setback of the building which meets/exceeds zoning requirements. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Bailey. Motion passed 6-0.

b. Land Use Plan Update

Brian Pittelko, senior research analyst at W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research reviewed current goals and policies related to the Master Plan; Handouts included (1) Schoolcraft Township Master Plan process overview, (2) Schoolcraft Township Master Plan pages 41-45, and (3) Resident Characteristics overview depicting census populations and other demographic data.

Vice Chairman Aubry suggested changing the wording from “preventing expansion” to “limiting expansion” under Business and Economic Development: Goals and Policies, subsection Goals, part C.

Chairman Visel suggested omitting item #4, “Coordinate maintenance and improvement projects along US 131 with MDOT to ensure that access and services reflect Master Plan.”

Commissioner Miersma suggested omitting the “Sub-Issue: Regional Development” section in its entirety.

Mr. Pittelko suggested that census data is directionally accurate but requires additional detail in order to accurately understand the populations of Schoolcraft Townships and the villages of Schoolcraft and Vicksburg (without double-counting) and committed to further work to refine this data.

The revenue and expenditure report as of 7-31-23 was reviewed to determine whether funding was available to support mailing surveys to all township residents in order to gather more feedback related to the Master Plan; per the report, \$3,693.21 remains of the budgeted \$4,500.00 allocated to “Planning Printing/Publication.”

In addition to feedback collected from Planning Commission members, Commissioner Jastifer will coordinate with the township clerk mailing Schoolcraft Township resident survey related to Master Plan vision, goals and policies. Commissioner Miersma will coordinate awareness on social media as surveys are distributed to maximize survey participation.

Old business:

None

Report from the Township Board

Commissioner Stafford provided a summary report of township board activities: updates on newsletter survey results related to ARP funds and Charter Township support; zoning ordinance text amendment changes approved (as proposed by the Planning Commission); and the township contract for information technology support was switched to a new company.

Report from the Zoning Board of Appeals:

None

A motion to adjourn was raised at 7:32 pm by Vice Chairman Aubry and seconded by Commissioner Bailey. The motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Nate Miersma, Secretary