

Van Buren County Planning Commission
June 21, 2006
Human Services Building
801 Hazen St., Paw Paw
6:30 PM

Minutes

Call to Order: 6:30 pm

Members in attendance: Jeff Radtke, Celinda Gilmore, Jerry Campbell, Scott Cedarquist, Kurt Doroh, Dan Gehl, Pam Stermer, Connie Selles, Kelly Getman-Dissette

Absent: Jim Ray

Public present: Rachel Vochaska (Director, South Haven Chamber of Commerce), Bill Mihelich and Ivan Olson (Paw Paw Township Planning Commission)

Agenda: Accepted as corrected (Doroh, Campbell motion).

Public Hearing on the County Comprehensive Plan – Radtke opened the public hearing at 6:30 p.m. Rachel Vochaska, Director of the South Haven Chamber of Commerce, introduced herself and stated that the new goals of the Chamber could have countywide impact. Vochaska felt that it would be important for both plans to be compatible. With no other comments, the public hearing was closed at 6:40 and the regular meeting was called to order.

Minutes of May 24, 2006: Approved as amended on a Doroh, Gilmore motion.

Public Comment: None

Reports:

County Commissioner – No report.

Southwestern Michigan Commission Representative – No report.

LPB – Bill Mihelich, Dave Foerster, and Getman-Dissette have completed site visits with the PDR applicants. Also, the first donation to the program, \$50, was received.

Local Visits – Doroh reported that there was a presentation on the new biodiesel plant at the Bangor Roundtable. The plant expects to be operational by fall, and it is rumored that Willie Nelson will be in Bangor on July 7th to celebrate the opening of the plant.

Unfinished Business:

Smart Growth Scorecards

June has been an extremely busy month, and the scorecards will be on hold until July.

New Business:

County Planning Commission (CPC) Response to Comprehensive Plan Input

Letters and e-mails regarding the Comprehensive Plan were received from Cass County, the City of South Haven, Paul VandenBosch (Assistant Manager, City of South Haven), County Commissioner Don Hanson, Allegan County, and Berrien County. Each piece of correspondence was reviewed so that the CPC could respond and potentially edit the Plan based on input received.

Cass County

In response to the Cass County letter, the CPC offered the following:

1. Public input was invited throughout the plan update process, and a formal hearing was held on June 21st, meeting the requirement of the County Planning Act, P.A. 282 of 1945. No comments regarding the contents of the Comprehensive Plan were received.

In addition, the Plan was mailed to each entity described in the County Planning Act, and responses were received from one Van Buren County Commissioner; Allegan, Berrien, and Cass Counties; and the City of South Haven.

2. The CPC regularly reviews the comprehensive/master/land use plans from the townships, cities, and villages within our county, as well as the plans of neighboring counties.

City of South Haven

The CPC offered the following in response to South Haven's letter:

1. Thank you for noting the misspelling. This will be corrected.
2. The CPC agreed that it would be important to add text concerning Lake Michigan. It is anticipated that this text will be added to Chapter 6 under the subheading "Waterways, Wineries, and More," if this does not necessitate a delay in approving the Plan (Cedarquist, Gehl motion).

Paul VandenBosch

The CPC decided to thank Mr. VandenBosch for his thoughtful comments regarding the Comprehensive Plan and to make note of the time he spent in reviewing this document.

VandenBosch's comments prompted much discussion, and the CPC agreed that his correspondence should be kept on file and utilized for the next update. The CPC also felt that the information provided would be very helpful in developing a countywide recreation plan.

VandenBosch's e-mail mentioned that page 76 was confusing. The CPC noted that Chapter 6 is entitled, "Community Facilities and Services, Transportation and Recreation," and the two museums mentioned are the only two that are specifically county museums.

Don Hanson

This e-mail was received and addressed in February 2006. It was reviewed today only for informational purposes.

Allegan County

Allegan County was simply thanked for commenting on the Comprehensive Plan.

Berrien County

Berrien County was thanked for sending comments regarding the Comprehensive Plan. The CPC also noted that the Berrien County Planning Commission's suggestion to develop a countywide future land use map was sound, and in fact, such a map has been a long-time goal of the CPC. Efforts will be made so that a map of this type can be included in the next update.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on July 26th at 6:30 in the same location.

Adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by Kelly Getman-Dissette