

PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES – DECEMBER 10, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Larry Shaffer, Lou Lundquist, Phil Bontrager, Christine Lundquist

OTHERS PRESENT: Dottie LaJoye representing CUPPAD

Motion by Lou, supported by Phil to approve the meeting minutes from 12/2/2020. Motion carried.

RECREATION PLAN REVIEW: The committee requested the following changes along other minor items:

1. Changing the begin date to 2021;
2. Correction of the Planning Commission's responsibilities in section 3.1;
3. Addition of the fish cleaning station and showers to information on the marina improvements described on page 5;
4. Deletion of sentence on page 8 indication the recreation barn was used for basketball courts and an ice rink;
5. Deletion of Edmund T. Warren Park from page 9;
6. Correction of Bicycle Path & Walkway information on page 10;
7. Rewording the last paragraph of page 12 to sound less like a challenge between tourism and local needs;
8. Addition of replacing the recreation barn section of the community building to project on page 16;
9. Addition of extension of bike path/walkway from Coast Guard point to extend up the Lake Street hill and follow Brazel Street to Woodland Park and also to the Agate Beach parking area.
10. Mat at Bayshore Park to increase accessibility.

It was noted that construction of a walking/bike path going east on H-58 would need to be done in conjunction with road replacement. Larry indicated that the Township should consider advance discussions with the County Road Commission.

The Commission discussed issues with 4-wheelers/ATV in town. Ms LaJoye discussed some steps other communities have taken and possible regulations the Township might look into. It was noted that the lack of local law enforcement makes it difficult to enforce this type of regulation.

Ms. LaJoye discussed a MSU Extension program that comes into the community to review and assist with tourist accessibility, signage needs, etc.

Phil noted the need to keep the document from vetting locals against tourism. Discussion ensued regarding regulations to facilitate keeping tourism from becoming a detriment to local residents.

It was suggested that the Township might want to have a suggestion box where people could report areas of concern (e.g. Needed sidewalk repairs). It was noted that the drop box at the Township office might work if it was advertised as a drop site.

Larry discussed the need to periodically re-evaluate the plan. Ms. LaJoye noted a “rock solid maintenance plan” is extremely important with DNR applications for funding and that they like “regional scale” plans.

The Commission agreed to a follow-up meeting on Tuesday, December 15, at 4:00 pm to review the 3rd draft of the plan to be provided by CUPPAD.

Motion by Phil, supported by Lou to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm. Motion carried.