CITY OF LUDINGTON
PLANNING COMMSION
MINUTES 08/05/08

A meeting of the Ludington Planning Commission was held on Tuesday, August 5, 2008. The meeting was held at the Ludington Municipal Building, 400 S. Harrison St., Ludington, MI and was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Tom Coleman, Chairperson.

ROLL CALL: The roll call showed the following results:

Present: Robert Garrett, Chris Gamble, Kaye Holman, Clay Olmstead, Chris Pontz, Gary Schnitker and Tom Coleman

Absent: Mike Nekola and Joe Moloney, excused. Mayor's Youth Advisory members, Kendra Silsby and Dean Feole were not present.

Also Present: Recording Secretary, Carol Ann Foote

AGENDA APPROVAL:
Chairman Coleman added enforcement report to unfinished business. Commissioner Holman made a motion to approve the agenda, with amendments, seconded by Commissioner Olmstead. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:
None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
Commissioner Olmstead made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2008 meeting, seconded by Commissioner Holman. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Coleman stated that a letter that was sent to Pere Marquette Township with comments regarding their proposed Comprehensive Plan was attached to the agenda. Commissioner Moloney sent a letter with comments regarding the plan. The allotted time for comments have expired therefore Commissioner Moloney will need to send his comments in as a private citizen.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:
None

NEW BUSINESS:
Chairman Coleman told the Commissioners that a new project was being proposed downtown with the tentative sale of the fire barn and adjoining parking area. He said that a re-zoning request could be anticipated for the September meeting. He stated that this looked like a good project and thought it would be could for the downtown.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
Comprehensive Plan:

East Ludington Avenue Architectural Preservation:
Commissioner Schnitker reported that the committee did not meet in July but a meeting would be scheduled before the next Planning Commission meeting.

Vendors:
Commissioner Holman reported that she talked to the Downtown Ludington Board about vendors, but did not get much reaction. She will meet with them again next week and ask that they give her some direction.

Neighborhoods:
No report

US-10 Access Management:
Chairman Coleman reported that the Access Management plan has been through several reviews. There will be at least one more meeting to discuss changes before it comes to the Planning Commission for comments.

Downtown Walk ability:

Commissioner Gamble read a report sent by Commissioner Moloney regarding walk ability. Commissioners Gamble and Moloney along with two city employees will place bike racks in several spots as follows: next to the south wall of the skate park, near the entrance to the north break wall, James Street Plaza, Ludington Ave. near Michaels or Ravens and near the gazebo at Cartier Park.

SITE PLAN REVIEW REPORT:

Chairman Coleman reported that a preliminary sketch plan review was held for the proposed office building on W. Loomis St.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Chairman Coleman reported that Commissioner Olmstead had completed painting the fence at the fire barn and the memorial flag pole at Stearns Park. Commissioner Garrett was responsible for getting distance signs on the break walls. Commissioner Garrett commented that Shawn McDonald helped with the signs.

Chairman Coleman thanked Commissioner Garrett for organizing a crew to clean up the south beach of trash that drifted ashore.

Commissioner Olmstead said that he wanted to power wash the bumpers at Stearns, but there were too many cars. Shawn McDonald suggested removing the vertical post that are painted yellow and sculpting the grass down to the sidewalk. We have everything power washed and ready to go, so this will be the first visible project. He asked that the Commissioners meet him at Stearns Park on Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m. to work on that project. He said that he would also like to power wash and paint the gazebo at Copeyon Park. Chairman Coleman said that City Manager Shay had talked about using the maroon color paint that was used at the Marina to start tying in the parks system.

Commissioner Olmstead commented that he has noticed that the business owners have started cleaning up the alley between James St. and Rath Ave. and sprucing up the backs of their buildings. He said that it was looking good.

Commissioner Holman mentioned the code enforcement report that was included in their packets. She said that she would like to commend Jerry Welton, John Healy, Carol Foote and Trudy Roy for a job well done. She asked that any residents that had problems or concerns about properties in the City should call the Building/Zoning Department.

Commissioner Holman announced that this week would be the last Friday Nite Live event. Thursday will begin the first of four "Movies in the Park". Commissioner Schnitker commented about the road closure signs that were left along side the road between each Friday Nite Live. He would like the City to consider moving the signs each week.

Chairman Coleman stated that a Commissioner requested that the Planning Commission take some time to go through the City Charter and what it says. He said that everyone would be involved and read a chapter or two each month. The Charter was adopted in 1992 and there are people who are not aware of what the Charter contains. Chairman Coleman said that there are some things that the Planning Commission does are based on the City Charter so it is appropriate that they take the time to read through it. He then read Chapters 1 and 2 of the City Charter. The Commissioners discussed the Charter pre-1992 and Commissioner Garrett explained what brought about the change. Commissioner Olmstead explained the Michigan law regarding adopting a City Charter.

Due to the November elections, Chairman Coleman suggested moving the meeting date to Wednesday, November 5, 2008. The Commissioners agreed on that date.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Ann Foote, Recording Secretary

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Tom Coleman, Chairperson