CITY OF LUDINGTON
PLANNING COMMSION
MINUTES 03/04/08

A meeting of the Ludington Planning Commission was held on Tuesday, March 4, 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: Gary Schnitker, Clay Olmstead, Chris Gamble, Mike Nekola, Joe Moloney, Kaye Holman and Tom Coleman

Absent: Robert Garrett, excused and Chris Pontz, absent

Also Present: Recording Secretary, Carol Ann Foote, City Manager, John Shay, and Mayor's Youth Advisory members Dean Feole and Kendra Silsby.

AGENDA APPROVAL:
Commissioner Holman made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Olmstead. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:
None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
Commissioner Olmstead made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2008 meeting, seconded by Commissioner Moloney. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:
None

NEW BUSINESS:
None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
Comprehensive Plan:

Chairman Coleman went through the Comprehensive Plan Action Items that were left to do as follows:

E. Ludington Ave.: Architectural Preservation: Gary Schnitker, Bob Garrett and Chris Gamble have been appointed to an adhoc committee. Commissioner Schnitker reported that the committee had not met yet. Chairman Coleman stated that he had information to give to the committee for review.

Neighborhoods: Commissioners Nekola, Moloney and Gamble will work on this. Commissioner Nekola stated that because the issue of daycare facilities will roll over into this item, it should be kept with the special land use committee.

Access Management: Chairman Coleman told the Commissioners that he went through the exercise with the county. He said that he would gather the information and bring it to them.

Tree City: Chairman Coleman said that he was interested in this and would like Commissioner Holman to work on this also. He asked Commissioner Olmstead if he would agree to work on this. Commissioner Olmstead stated that he would suggest Commissioner Garrett, since this ties in with Parks and Recreation.

Non Motorized Network: Chairman Coleman said that this would be a part of neighborhoods.

Chairman Coleman said that there are a couple of areas that they would look at on a month to month basis.

Daycare Facilities: Commissioner Nekola reported that the committee had met. As they look at daycare facilities, they are also looking at things like home occupations that pop up in neighborhoods. These things can affect how a neighborhood looks. We are going to locate these places and map them out. We want to see how many properties are non-homestead and the number of daycare facilities located in rental units. We will come back next month with the details. Commissioner Holman wanted to know if they really care if a daycare is in a rental. Commissioner Nekola said that they will look at the impact they may have on neighborhoods.

SITE PLAN REVIEW REPORT:
None

Chairman Coleman said that there was a site plan review for Oakview Medical scheduled earlier that day, but it was cancelled. Commissioner Nekola asked if the traffic flow problem on Staffon St. had been resolved. Chairman Coleman explained that the intersection of Staffon St. and Ludington Ave. was looked at when to bank proposed to move to that corner. It is also part of the Access Management Plan. The City, County, Pere Marquette Township and Department of Transportation felt that there would be a high possibility of accidents there. Commissioner Holman asked about installing a traffic light at that intersection. Chairman Coleman explained the problems that could occur with a traffic light there.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:
Chairman Coleman stated that at the last meeting they discussed doing small projects with citizen participation. He explained that some of the fun things that they had done was plant dune grass, painted the sign at Cartier Park, etc. He would like the Commissioners to come back with a list in April. Commissioner Moloney stated that he was working on bike racks. He has met with West Shore Community College technical department to discuss styles of bike racks and maybe doing something at a lesser cost. He said that he rode with Police Chief, Mark Barnett, to see what areas needed bike racks. They also discussed the issue of safety vest for walkers. Commissioner Moloney asked Commissioner Holman if the Parks Committee had been confirmed. She said that she would find out and report back. Commissioner Olmstead said that there were many ways to enhance the community, such as all-season lights, painting garbage cans, railroad memorabilia, etc. Commissioner Schnitker stated that the Post Office area could use some help. He suggested that the local garden club may help with plantings. Commissioner Holman said that she would like to get new plantings at ~~Cartier~~ *Stearns* Park. She stated that one year they did plant, but she would like to see something that looks nicer. She said that the first block of James St. will be blocked off this year, with City Council approval. She stated that she was in favor of closing it off permanently. Chairman Coleman asked the Youth Advisory members, Dean and Kendra, to get a list together. Commissioner Gamble talked about the downtown restrooms. He said that they had seen their better days. Chairman Coleman said the Downtown Ludington Board might be encouraged for this type of project. Things should be encouraged so that it is not just City responsibility. City Manager, John Shay, told the Commissioners that the City had done renovations on that bathroom. There was new floor tile installed, it was painted, etc. The restroom at the south concession stand was also renovated. Commissioner Gamble asked what the status was on the Father Marquette Memorial at the marina. Commissioner Holman said that the Lion's Club owned it. At one time they talked about moving it to White Pine Village. It had also been discussed that a sign may be put in it, but it was too expensive. To replace the glass would be $800.00. She said that she would get more information and report back. Chairman Coleman asked John Shay to explain the grant that Heather Loney applied for the sidewalk on the West end of Ludington Ave. Mr. Shay said that the City did get a grant for the breakwater and as part of that; they are looking to apply for another grant to put in a walkway on the break water. Youth Advisory member, Dean Feole, commented about the public restroom. He said that he is aware that the City put a lot of money into the facility, but he feels that there are a lot of people that do not know that they are there. He said that tourist would not know they are there. He suggested public awareness signs.

ADJOURNMENT:
Commissioner Moloney made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Holman. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Ann Foote, Recording Secretary

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Tom Coleman, Chairperson