CITY OF LUDINGTON
PLANNING COMMSION
MINUTES 03/03/09

A meeting of the Ludington Planning Commission was held on Tuesday, March 3, 2009. 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: Lynn Pontz, Kaye Holman , Joe Moloney, Tom Coleman, Gary Schnitker and Mike Nekola

Absent: Robert Garrett, excused and Chris Gamble, excused

Commissioner Olmstead arrived at 7:05 p.m.

Also Present: Recording Secretary, Carol Ann Foote

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:
None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
Commissioner Schnitker made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2009 meeting, seconded by Commissioner Moloney. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:
None

NEW BUSINESS:
None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
Comprehensive Plan:

Vendors:
Commissioner Holman reported that there would be a meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2009 regarding vendors and she would have a report for the April Planning Commission meeting.

East Ludington Avenue Architectural Preservation:
Commissioner Schnitker reported that the committee met and decided that a survey should be done to determine property owner support. He stated that help would be needed in making the assessment of the district.

Downtown Walk ability:
Commissioner Moloney reported that he is working with Chief Barnett on a bicycle program. Commissioner Nekola has offered to help with maintenance through his work programs. This spring, a dozen bicycles will be placed around town for public use, free of charge.

Commissioner Moloney announced that the safe routes to schools meeting had been postponed until March 17.

Chairman Coleman discussed updating the data in the Comprehensive Plan. They would basically review it to have the data fresher than what is in the 2004 Plan. There is a need to look at the goals and objectives and the action plans. Chairman Coleman read through the action plans and gave an update on the status of each. He told the Commissioners that he met with City Manager, John Shay regarding a tree program.

Chairman Coleman said that they might consider structuring the neighborhood effort differently. Commissioner Nekola commented that the City Council has been focused on the downtown area for the past five years. The MSHDA loans and programs have been mainly for the downtown upstairs apartments. Until some of these projects are done, he is not sure what other resources are available to do some of the things that need to be done in the neighborhoods.

Chairman Coleman stated that Commissioner Moloney would continue on the non-motorized plan, the County and the City were working well together on Brownfield, access management has been accomplished and they would be working on signs this year. Chairman Coleman said that they would be putting together information, and then they would present the package to Williams and Works. He said that they were gathering ideas for action items and they would also get public input.

Commissioner Moloney asked if there was any activity with the Parks Committee. Chairman Coleman stated that the Parks Committee was the responsibility of the City Council.

Wind Energy:
Chairman Coleman told the Commissioners that Commissioner Garrett was looking at suggested language for regulations of wind turbines. Commissioner Garrett will be in town for the April meeting and will update the Commission at that time. Commissioner Nekola stated that wind energy was moving fast. He said that Meijer's stores are looking at putting them up at all their stores. He suggested that they move forward with adopting language. Commissioner Pontz asked if there was anything in the ordinance that prohibits wind turbines. Chairman Coleman told him that communication towers would probably cover them at this time.

SITE PLAN REVIEW REPORT:
None

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:
Sub-committee chair:
Text – Commissioner Holman
SLU – Commissioner Nekola
Zoning – Commissioner Olmstead

Chairman Coleman pointed out the Planning and Zoning Year-end Report that was included in the packets. He asked Carol Foote the status of the Court St. and Danaher St. burned houses. Ms. Foote reported that demolition would be started in the next two weeks on Court St. and the contractor for the Danaher St. house has secured a permit and is waiting on better weather.

Chairman Coleman asked the Commissioners to think about community projects they would like to complete in the upcoming year.

Commissioner Schnitker gave a summary of part of Chapter 7 of the City Charter.

ADJOURNMENT:
A motion was made by Commissioner Moloney, seconded by Commissioner Holman to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Ann Foote, Recording Secretary

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Tom Coleman, Chairperson