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WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP

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WHITE LAKE TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

Regular Meeting
7525 Highland Road
White Lake, MI 48383
November 18, 2010 @ 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was called and there was a full board.

ROLL CALL: Steve Anderson, Chairperson
Todd Birkle, Board Liaison
David Lewsley
Michael Long
Steve Martinko, Vice Chairperson
Peter Meagher, Secretary
Gail Novak-Phelps
Beverly Spoor
Stan Woodhouse

Also Present: Sean O'Neil, AICP, Planning Director
David Birchler, AICP, Township Consultant
Jill Bahm, Birchler Arroyo
Kristen Goetz, Township Engineer
Lynn Lindon, Recording Secretary

Visitors: 18

Approval of Agenda

Ms. Novak-Phelps moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Birkle supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (9 yes votes)

Approval of Minutes

- October 7, 2010

Ms. Spoor moved to approve the minutes of October 7, 2010 as presented. Mr. Martinko supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (9 yes votes)

Call to the Public (for items not on the agenda)

Mr. Anderson opened the discussion for public comment on items not listed on the agenda, but none was offered.

Old Business

- a. Review and discuss White Lake Township Master Plan updates
 - i. Community Profile Analysis
 - ii. Public Input Process

Mr. Birchler gave a brief overview of the process for updating the Master Plan. He referenced the county land use map, which displays information based on lot size. He reaggregated the information and used 2 single-family categories; residential with less than 1 acre, and residential with more than 1 acre.

The intent this evening is to review public involvement in the planning process and the methods being suggested for involving the public, and to set a target date for a workshop style meeting where citizens can be involved in a series of exercises.

Mr. Birchler reviewed a draft of an internet-based survey they developed. He also distributed material to put into focus of how this may be accomplished. In addition, he noted that a blog was created for residents to leave comments and communicate with each other on the process. Suggestions for getting the word out to participate in the survey included having a press release, material on the township website, posting on bulletin boards, etc.

Mr. Birkle felt the Master Plan as a whole is a good product, but feels the website is poor and in need of updating. Mr. O'Neil reported that approval was given to rebuild the website and it's in the process, but is still a few months out. Mr. Birchler noted that some municipalities have acquired a unique domain name for their planning program and this would be the quickest way to have something dedicated to this project. He will research this further and report back at the next meeting.

There were concerns that the survey might be too long that people won't complete it, and that some of the information sought might be irrelevant or too personal. Ms. Bahm noted that all the questions are optional and she feels the results of the survey will be helpful if you know who participated. Discussion continued as to who would participate and how many.

Mr. Long asked if those who didn't have a computer would be able to fill out a survey. It was noted there would be paper copies at the Dublin Center and the library, as well as the township office. Any paper copies received would be input by the planning department staff into the program so accurate information is tabulated and reflected.

Mr. Martinko questioned the timing of some of the projects, and felt they should stay within the 5-year time frame, but Mr. Birchler stated the results might reflect a false read with the way the economy has been in the last 3 years. With regard to question #6, it was decided that it be defined a little more as community events or sporting activities. Also, it was decided to omit the questions pertaining to snow removal and street maintenance, and the post office.

Mr. Anderson referenced the statement pertaining to the quality of life and asked for clarification. Ms. Bahm stated it would be different for everyone answering the question, but she could add a comment section. Mr. Birchler added that they want the responses to define their own quality of life rather than to come up with 3 or 4 options of what we think it should be.

Mr. Lewsley felt it's important to get multi generational responses. He suggested reaching out to the schools and request that students participate in the survey. It's also important that the older generation be included, even if the paper version is burdensome, it is important. He is also concerned that the survey is too lengthy. He suggested taking out the questions that don't directly apply, which will shorten it up. He is also concerned with the December 31 deadline now that we are approaching the holiday season. He would like to see a January deadline with another burst of advertising after the holidays.

Mr. Martinko suggested that the tree lighting ceremony would be a great event to announce the survey with a single piece of paper to announce the website. Mr. O'Neil added there is a new online publication called "The Patch" that is exclusive to White Lake that would be an additional avenue for advertising.

Ms. Novak-Phelps agreed with Mr. Lewsley and stressed the importance of filling this survey out. She asked Ms. Bahm to double check the number of characters available in the comment sections so people have enough room to put their comments.

It was also suggested to separate into two questions where it pertains to Police and Fire, and Water and Sewer, and that there be an "N/A" option if it doesn't apply.

Mr. O'Neil will do the final review of the revised survey.

The workshop meeting date was set for January 20, 2011 at the Dublin Center and the deadline to complete the survey was extended to January 15.

Planning Consultant's Report

Mr. Birchler announced his office did a summary of the MAP conference. They have materials on CD upon request.

Director's Report

Mr. O'Neil reported he was asked to order 2 dvd's from the History Channel on medical marijuana. He suggested that the group might want to watch it at one of the meetings.

The Township Board and the Parks & Rec Committee are having a joint meeting next Tuesday, November 23, at 7:00 to discuss park projects and other issues.

Ms. Novak-Phelps stated she has an informational disk from ITC on planning, etc. and asked if it could be linked on the website. Mr. O'Neil will check into this.

Communications

Next meeting dates:

- Regular meeting – December 2, 2010 – possible cancellation
- Regular meeting – December 16, 2010 – public hearing for SLU approval for BP Station drive-thru for the Dunkin Donuts.

Adjournment

Mr. Birkle moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Ms. Novak-Phelps supported and the MOTION CARRIED with a voice vote. (9 yes votes)