



Rough Draft

Minutes

THOMAS TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

Thomas Township Public Safety Building, 8215 Shields Drive, Saginaw, MI 48609

December 21, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Ruth McDonald called the Planning Commission meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present in addition to Mrs. McDonald were: Rod Iamurri, Chris Thompson and Dale Halm. Also present were Dan Sika, Director of Community Development and Susan Coggin, Planning Assistant/Code Enforcement Officer.

Members Absent: Diane LaMountain, John Bintz and Rick Lorentzen.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Agenda:

It was moved by Mr. Halm, seconded by Mr. Thompson to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes:

It was moved by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Halm to approve the minutes of November 16, 2011 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Hearings – None.

6. Presentations – None.

7. Sign Board of Appeals – None.

8. Old Business – None.

9. New Business

A. 2012 Sidewalk Project – Kennely Road from Swanhaven Manor North to Northfield Drive.

Mr. Sika stated that Thomas Township is proposing to install a new section of sidewalk along Kennely Road from Swanhaven Manor north to Northfield Drive. By installing these new sections of sidewalk which would connect to the existing sidewalks at Brookfield Drive and Swanhaven Manor, it will complete a large section

of sidewalk shown on the Sidewalk Master Plan. Every other year the Township installs a section of sidewalk connecting residential areas to each other. In this case a high density of residential parcels will be connected to the Gratiot Road (M-46) corridor.

Mr. Iamurri suggested a possible alternative to the proposed sidewalk project. He stated that he walks this area frequently and due to the speed of the traffic after it makes the bend on Kennely, could the section of sidewalk from the bend of Kennely north be switched from the east side of the road to the west? Mr. Sika stated that he would discuss this option with the Saginaw County Road Commission and see if it would be possible. Mr. Sika further stated that he would report his findings at the next scheduled Planning Commission meeting.

B. Update – Great Lakes Solar Technology Park.

Mr. Sika stated that on November 21, 2011, Saginaw Future, the Great Lakes Bay Region and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation celebrated the groundbreaking of the Great Lakes Solar Technology Park on North Graham Road. The property consists of 231 acres and will be developed into six shovel ready lots. Also located near this site is the new elevated water tower which has been under construction since early spring. This is only an update on an approved project that is moving forward this winter.

C. Update – Gratiot Road Streetlight Project.

Mr. Sika stated that the Gratiot Road streetlight project has been steadily progressing and should be completed by the end of December. When the project is completed, ninety-eight (98) lights will have been installed from the Tittabawassee River to the west drive of Meijer on both the north and south side of Gratiot Road. Consumer Energy anticipates removing the existing overhead streetlights by the end of December or early January. This is only an update on an approved project that the DDA and Business Association have been working on. A special dedication program will take place on January 9, 2012.

D. Update – Roberts Park Progress.

Mr. Sika stated that the Roberts Park expansion is in full swing. The soccer fields are completed including seeding and should be ready for use in 2012. The parking lot for the soccer fields has also been completed and the new entrance drive from Miller Road is currently under construction. The Roberts Park project will be completed over time with the soccer fields being the first of the areas completed in the park.

10. Receive and File All Correspondence.

A. November, 2011 Edition of the Planning and Zoning News.

11. Adjournment.

Motion by Mr. Halm, seconded by Mr. Thompson to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m.
Motion carried unanimously. The next meeting date is Wednesday, January 18, 2012.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Coggin, Planning Assistant/Code Enforcement Officer