



Minutes

THOMAS TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

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

July 20, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

John Bintz called the Planning Commission meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present in addition to Mr. Bintz were: Ruth, McDonald, Diane LaMountain, Chris Thompson, Dale Halm, Rod Iamurri and Rick Lorentzen. Also present were Dan Sika, Director of Community Development, Susan Coggin, Planning Assistant/Code Enforcement Officer and four (4) interested parties.

Members Absent: None.

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 Mrs. McDonald, seconded by Mrs. LaMountain to approve the minutes of June 15, 2011 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Hearings – None.

6. Presentations

- A. Saginaw County Economic Development Corporation of Saginaw, Michigan requested site plan approval for site improvements including a new road to be known as Sunshine Court located northwest of the corner of Gratiot and North Graham Roads.

Mr. Russ Taylor, Thomas Township Manager and Mr. John Olson, Spicer Group, were present to answer any questions or concerns regarding this proposed site plan. Mr. Olson stated that they are proposing to complete site improvements to a 181.57 acre parcel of land located along North Graham Road and Gratiot Road. This is the location of the proposed Renewable Energy Park. The improvements to this site will include the following:

1. A new cul-de-sac road to be known as Sunshine Court. The road will be curbed and include a boulevard entrance along North Graham Road. Other features of the new road include street lighting, stone columns with fencing and extensive landscaping.
2. Street lighting, stone columns with fencing and extensive landscaping will also be installed along North Graham Road from the existing Greenstone Farm Credit Union north to Sunshine Court.
3. A sanitary sewer pump station will be installed just north of the existing Greenstone Farm Credit Union.

Mr. Olson further stated that this will be the framework that is necessary for new solar technology high-tech businesses to locate within Thomas Township. Road improvements as well as drainage improvements will be made to the area to accommodate development.

Motion by Mrs. McDonald, supported by Mr. Iamurri to approve the Saginaw County Economic Development Corporation site plan for site improvements located northwest of the corner of Gratiot and North Graham Roads as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Thomas Township Parks and Recreation of Saginaw, Michigan requested site plan approval for the expansion of Roberts Park located on North Miller Road.

Mr. Russ Taylor, Thomas Township Manager, Mr. John Corriveau, Director of Parks and Recreation and Ms. Tanya Moore, Spicer Group, were present to answer any questions or concerns regarding this proposed park expansion. Mr. Taylor stated that the parks department presented a draft plan in the past showing the proposed expansion. This plan is more detailed and is ready to begin construction. The improvements to this site will include the following:

1. New park entrance from Miller Road.
2. Three (3) full size soccer fields.
3. Parking lot with eighty-nine (89) spaces including four (4) handicap spaces.
4. Walking trail.
5. Future development of a restroom/storage facility near the soccer fields.
6. Future development of a large pavilion with grills for outdoor activities.

Motion by Mr. Thompson, supported by Mr. Halm, to approve the Thomas Township Parks and Recreation site plan for the expansion of Roberts Park located on North Miller Road as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Sign Board of Appeals – None.

8. Old Business

Mr. Sika updated the Planning Commission members on the over-the-road banner project and the Gratiot Road streetlight project. Both projects will be underway soon and will be a great enhancement to the Gratiot Road corridor when completed.

9. New Business – None.

10. Adjournment:

Motion by Mrs. McDonald, seconded by Mr. Thompson to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. The next meeting date is Wednesday, **August 17, 2011.**

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