

reports that when lifeguards were removed in state park areas, the number of drowning have gone down.

When the park opens, the Parks and Recreation Commission will require one more full time employee and some seasonal part-time employees.

Commissioner Tansky questioned if there would be security cameras. Mark Brochu stated they have not talked about that. There will be a motorized gate for the Sheriff's office to go through.

Mark Brochu went on to say that Burtchville and Fort Gratiot townships are talking about connecting their Bridge to Bay Trails to the park.

Mark Brochu went on to give an update on the proposed purchase of Bauman Farms in Columbus Township. He stated that the Trust for Public Land is close to purchasing the property, holding, and maintaining it while the county waits for a MDNR grant. In the meantime, the Parks and Recreation Commission purchased additional property from the Greenia family upstream and recently approved the purchase of two lots on the river that the County had made previous offers on and had been turned down.

Mark Brochu discussed the Master Recreation Plan update that the Planning Department staff is working on. He stated that the visioning session held with MPC staff in attendance went well and they received very positive comments. He stated that Mike Latuszek, Kara Schrader and David Struck did a wonderful job.

Chair Cooper thanked Mark Brochu for coming to the meeting and providing an update.

4. Approval of Minutes

A. August 16, 2006

Motion by Knight, supported by DeBoyer to accept the minutes of August 16, 2006 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Acceptance of Communications

Motion by Murphy, supported by Sheehy to receive and file the communications. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Financial Reports

A. August 2006

Kauffman gave an update on the financial report. A correction to the report in the agenda packet was passed out at the meeting to amend page 23.

Regarding a question he received previously, Kauffman stated that when it comes to charges versus professional courtesy, if a department is funded from other than General Fund, (i.e., special millage, dedicated millage, grant funded program) they will be charged in order to access outside funds to offset dollars the Board of Commissioners provides.

Kauffman advised the commissioners that beginning January 1 they will be charging more than in the past to local communities for work that is done for them. The communities he has talked to were aware that at some point they would have to contribute, but are appreciative for the work they have received as a professional courtesy.

Motion by Sheehy, supported by Murphy to receive and file the corrected financial report. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Consent Agenda

A. Clearinghouse Review - LU 070002 - Morton Skate Park, City Of Marysville

Staff recommends that the Commission endorse the application submitted by the City of Marysville, as it is consistent with County plan and goals.

The following two items (B & C) were pulled from the Consent Agenda to be reviewed individually.

B. China Township – Map Amendment – Residential Suburban to B-2 Commercial

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends the Metropolitan Planning Commission **deny** the proposed rezoning due to its inconsistencies with the China Township Master Plan and the St. Clair County Master Plan.

Latuszek gave an overview of the staff report in the agenda packet.

After discussion, **motion** by Lockwood, supported by Sheehy to concur with staff and recommend the township deny the rezoning request from Residential Suburban to Commercial. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Riley Township – Text Amendment – Agriculture Secure District

Staff Recommendation: Based on updated information, staff recommends that the Metropolitan Planning Commission recommend to the Riley Township Board **approval** of the proposed zoning text amendment, for the following reasons:

- 1. The proposed amendment is well supported by both the Riley Township Master Plan and the St. Clair County Master Plan.*
- 2. The proposed amendment is consistent with the County's goal to preserve valuable farmland in the Rural and Agricultural Conservation District, as detailed in the Vision Based Policy of the St. Clair County Master Plan.*
- 3. The proposed amendment will help Riley Township landowner applications to the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program score higher when evaluated by the County program and the state of Michigan program.*

Struck gave an overview of the staff report in the packet passed out at the meeting, which is an update to what was mailed out.

Motion by Knight, supported by Sheehy to recommend approval to the Township Board. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Riley Township – Text Amendment – Signs

Staff recommends approval of the proposed zoning text amendments for the following reasons:

- 1. The community is best suited to determine what it wants to achieve with its Special Approval Uses and Signs Ordinances, and how it can most efficiently enforce these ordinances.*
- 2. Proposed text amendment is not in conflict the goals of the St. Clair County Master Plan and the planning objectives of the Riley Township Master Plan.*

Motion by Tansky, supported by Andrews to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Work Program Reports

A. Geoff Donaldson

Donaldson gave an update on what was happening in Solid Waste Management Planning Committee. They are looking at an amendment to the 2000 Solid Waste Plan for a Septage Bioreactor Project at the landfill. If the draft amendment is approved at their September 25 meeting, it will go out to the public for review.

B. Lori Eschenburg

Eschenburg gave a short report on the annual conference at Boyne that she and Floyd attended. Of particular note was the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan which Plachinski and Struck worked on. A presentation was given on the plan and how they applied GIS.

C. Trevor Floyd

Floyd passed around a book that showed what can be done with a new tool for printing 2005 aerials. Five booklets were completed for the Pine River area.

Kauffman stated that he and Floyd had discussed doing a short test of the product and placing it where appraisers and real estate people come in to gauge their reaction and see if there is a market for the product and what they would be willing to pay for it. If anyone has any suggestions, please pass them on to Trevor.

Floyd stated he gave a presentation at the MiCamp Conference held at Boyne.

D. Mike Latuszek

Latuszek stated he finished the last of the amendments for the *Jobs Today* projects, and the projects were moved forward by the SCCOTS Committee.

He stated that they have started the data collection for Asset Management. They have completed 100 of the 700 plus miles they must do this year.

On October 4, the Asset Management Council will be meeting in Port Huron.

The consulting work for the Travel Demand Model and the Long Range Transportation Plan are coming along nicely.

Latuszek stated that when the Wadhams Bridge is redone it will still have four lanes; however, some widening may result in Atkins Road being closed off to Wadhams Road.

On September 26, there will be a public information session where MDOT will reveal the alternative chosen for the Blue Water Bridge Plaza.

24th Street is not complete; however, everything should be done by middle of next week. After that, they hope to have the area from Court to Oak done by the middle of November.

E. Kara Schrader

Schrader stated she had nothing to add to her staff report.

F. David Struck

Struck stated that the Agricultural Preservation Board will be meeting tomorrow. He passed out a pamphlet for each of the commissioners for the Fall Farm Tour.

Struck met with the Affordable Housing consultant and went through the work plan. Struck was impressed with the consultant and believes we will end up with a very good product.

Motion by Sheehy, supported by Andrews to accept the Work Program Reports. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Director's Report

Kauffman stated that Board of Commissioners will be scheduling work sessions on the 2007 budget. Kauffman wants to discuss contractual work and get a firm commitment from them before soliciting contracts. Due to the elections in November, it is possible to have a significant change on the board. The new board might not want us to compete with the private sector. Kauffman will meet with Administrator Groden and Chair Anger to get some insight on how to proceed.

Kauffman gave an update on a meeting with the consultant that worked with the Community Coordinating Services Body, which is a group of public agencies and non-profits that deal with housing services.

Kauffman discussed the Solid Waste Plan Update Enforcement Mechanism that identifies the county departments responsible for enforcing the Solid Waste Plan and the Metropolitan Planning Commission is not listed as one. When the Ordinance was passed and in place, those departments that were responsible said they would not do it unless they were given another person to take on the responsibility. The previous Planning Director offered to have the Planning Department take on the responsibility and we did. It became quite time

consuming; and although we hired a private detective, it was not unusual to receive a tip and have staff run and track down a truck. That is not something planners should be doing. Kauffman wanted thoughts from the Planning Commissioners prior to meeting with Administrator Groden and Board Chair Anger.

The Planning Commissioners had concerns that it could become confrontational.

Motion by Lockwood, supported by Sheehy for the Planning Department not to get involved in Solid Waste Plan enforcement activities. Motion carried unanimously.

Kauffman advised the commissioners that the Fall Workshop is October 26. The theme is on infrastructure and public services. As part of the Coastal Zone Project, the consultant will come and share information about water and sewer systems. In addition, the Road Commission will be giving a Road Commission 101 session.

Motion by Knight, supported by DeBoyer to accept the Director's Report. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Chairperson's Report

This was done under Agenda Item 3, Citizens Wishing to Address the Commission.

11. Old Business

A. Master Plan Update

Kauffman and staff talked about the timeline and the public involvement process. Staff is looking at July for adoption of the new plan.

It was suggested that there be an executive summary of the significant changes since the last plan was written.

12. New Business

Nothing was presented under New Business.

13. Adjournment

Motion by Murphy, supported by Knight to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothea Knight, Secretary

Prepared by:
Dale Fulton, Planning Department Office Manager