

**FREMONT COMMUNITY JOINT PLANNING COMMISSION (FCJPC)
MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, April 23, 2007

5:00 – 6:30 PM

Fremont City Hall

City Council Chambers

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| Members Present: | Dayton Township: | Kent Folkema |
| | Dayton Township: | Shirley Hooker |
| | Dayton Township: | Barbara Popp |
| | Dayton Township: | Chuck Whitman |
| | Sheridan Charter Township: | Don Potter |
| | Sheridan Charter Township: | Jack Taylor (Chair) |
| | Sheridan Charter Township: | Jeff Wharton |
| | City of Fremont: | Sherrri Anderson-Patterson |
| | City of Fremont: | Jim Breinling |
| | City of Fremont: | Don Henry |
| | City of Fremont: | Peg May |

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| Members Absent: | Sheridan Charter Township: | Tom Karnemaat |
| | City of Fremont: | Lon Vredeveld |

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| Others Present: | Dayton/Sheridan Townships: | Peter Lance |
| | City of Fremont: | Chris Yonker |
| | City of Fremont: | Michele Ribant |

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| Guests: | Land Info. Access Assoc. Staff: | Joe VanderMeulen Heather Seyfarth |
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Call to Order

The Commission was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Chair Jack Taylor.

Review and Review of Agenda

A motion was made by Barbara Popp, seconded by Don Henry and carried to approve the agenda for the day's meeting.

Review & Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Jim Breinling, seconded by Don Potter and carried to approve the minutes from the March 26, 2007 FCJPC meeting.

Update on Job Search for Recording Secretary

Chair Taylor reported that to-date no one has expressed an interest in the Recording Secretary position. He indicated that he is running an ad for the position in the *Times Indicator* for the April 25, 2007 edition. Shirley Hooker indicated she would make the position known to one or two people. Chris Yonker indicated he would let *Michigan Works* know of the available position. Michele Ribant said that perhaps a City Clerk in a neighboring community would be interested in the position.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Peg May reported that each Commission member should have received a check for compensation for attendance at meetings during the first quarter of the year and for continuing education credits. She provided the Commission with a report that outlined their attendance and told them that if they had changes, they should see her. She reminded the Commission that they need to contact Margie Ekkel at the City if they have not already provided her with their social security number. She indicated that the City may need this information for tax purposes.

Joint Comprehensive Development and Growth Management Project

Key Issues and Expectations

Heather Seyfarth and Joe VanderMeulen reviewed Key Issues and Expectations for the project with the Commission. They outlined the various phases of the project. LIAA was interested in learning the Commission's thoughts on the layout for the Joint Plan. A concern about the landscape format was brought up by Jeff Wharton. Jack Taylor made the point that the document must be easy to use. Peter Lance remarked that the Joint Comprehensive Plan will have to be in a format that can be updated by others; he said we need to manage changes to the document readily. Joe VanderMeulen indicated that it is likely that the different components (e.g., maps) of the Plan will require different software (micro-soft word, adobe & GIS). After much discussion, it was decided that we could fine-tune the desired format of the Plan at a future meeting.

Joe VanderMeulen pointed out that in our current Plan there is a "Goals and Objectives" chapter. He went on to say that there is a hierarchy to this section that could be illustrated more graphically. He said that the Vision would be at the top of the hierarchy followed by the goals, objectives and then the strategies. Heather Seyfarth indicated that some of the goals, etc. may be retained, some re-worded and some new ones may be added. Mr. VanderMeulen said they want to make the Plan user-friendly with many graphics, maps, etc. as was requested in the Request for Services for this project. It was stressed that the Plan should have a way to measure the success of the Commission's actions. Jim Breinling offered to bring a copy of the Mason County's Plan as a good example.

Photo Assignment

Heather Seyfarth thanked the Commission for participating in the photo assignment. She showed the Commission examples of pictures taken by Commission members of the Fremont Community in the following categories:

- Natural features
- Local Economy
- Housing
- Community Character
- Transportation, Utilities & Public Services

She encouraged Commission members to forward any other pictures throughout the project that a member may want to share. She asked if the pictures shown on the screen were representative of the community. She acknowledged that she only showed a few of the pictures. The Commission indicated that the following aspects of the Fremont Community need to be conveyed in the Plan as being important:

- Businesses that promotes agriculture (Fremont Coop, Reeman Farm Equipment, etc.)
- Recreation of natural resources (fishing on lake, boaters, etc.)
- Agricultural community (Heritage Market, roadside farm stands, etc.)
- Gerber Baby Food Company

Review of Census Data

LIAA reviewed the census data information with the Commission that was provided as a handout. Some of the points LIAA made based on the census data included the following:

- Michigan's manufacturing industry has served it well in the past, but it is not serving Michigan as well now.
- Michigan's high rate of unemployment is not an acceptable rate.
- Income levels in Fremont are higher than in other areas of Newaygo County.
- Michigan's rate of education attainment has fallen.
- Michigan is geographically less connected than other states with the exception of Hawaii, Alaska and Maine.
- Michigan's population is getting older, and we may have to change how we provide services.
- Fremont is not very diverse in population.
- Education is the key to Michigan's future.

After reviewing some of the trends in Michigan, both Joe VanderMeulen and Heather Seyfarth acknowledged that there are many other sources of valuable information that they can tap into as the Commission works to create the new Plan. Chris Yonker informed LIAA that NCEDO, the Newaygo County Economic Development Office, has a rich database of information.

Area-Wide Issues

Joe VanderMeulen asked the Commission to identify area-wide issues. The Commission communicated the following list of issues:

- Transportation and transit
- Housing (e.g., senior)
- Traffic
- Schools
- Farmland preservation
- In-fill development
- Job opportunities
- Natural resources

Mr. VanderMeulen asked the Commission to convey any other ideas about issues they may have at any time during the project.

Smart Growth Workshops

Heather Seyfarth reminded the Commission that the Smart Growth Workshops, which Mark Wyckoff will facilitate, will be held as follows:

Monday, May 7, 2007

Dogwood Center for the Performing Arts (In the Black Box)

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.: Smart Growth Education for Officials

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.: Smart Growth Education for the Public

Joe VanderMeulen indicated that the homework for this month is to attend one of the Smart Growth Workshops. He said that both workshops will be the same in terms of content.

Public Comment

There were no members of the public present; therefore, there was no public comment.

Next Meeting Date

Fremont Community Joint Planning Meeting
Monday, May 14, 2007
Sheridan Township Hall
5:00 – 6:30 PM

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:44 PM.