

CITY OF MANISTEE PLANNING COMMISSION

70 Maple Street
Manistee, MI 49660

MEETING MINUTES

December 5, 2013

A meeting of the Manistee City Planning Commission was held on Thursday, December 5, 2013 at 7pm in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 70 Maple Street, Manistee, Michigan.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Yoder

Roll Call:

Members Present: Maureen Barry, Bill Dean, Ray Fortier, Marlene McBride, Roger Yoder

Members Absent: David Crockett (excused), Mark Wittlief (excused)

Others: Denise Blakeslee (Planning & Zoning Administrator)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Ray Fortier, seconded by Maureen Barry that the agenda be approved as prepared.

With a Roll Call vote this motion passed 5 to 0.

Yes: Barry, Dean, Fortier, McBride, Yoder

No: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Ray Fortier, seconded by Bill Dean that the minutes of the November 7, 2013 Planning Commission Meeting be approved as prepared.

With a Roll Call vote this motion passed 5 to 0.

Yes: Dean, Fortier, Barry, McBride, Yoder

No: None

PUBLIC HEARING

None

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA RELATED ITEMS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers 2014 According to the By-Laws of the City of Manistee Planning Commission their annual election of Officers is held at the December Meeting for the following year.

Chair

At this time the meeting was turned over to Denise Blakeslee who asked for nominations for the Position of Chair.

Ray Fortier, seconded by Marlene McBride nominated Roger Yoder for the position of Chair

Nominations were asked for three times; There being no other nominations, nominations were closed.

With a roll call vote, Roger Yoder was elected Chair of the Planning Commission for 2014, 5 to 0.

Nominations were turned back over to Chair Yoder.

Vice-Chair

Chair Yoder asked for nominations for the Position of Vice-Chair.

Maureen Barry, seconded by Marlene McBride nominated Ray Fortier for the position of Vice-Chair

Nominations were asked for three times; There being no other nominations, nominations were closed.

With a roll call vote, Ray Fortier was elected Vice - Chair of the Planning Commission for 2014, 5 to 0.

Secretary

Chair Yoder asked for nominations for the Position of Secretary.

Ray Fortier nominated Marlene McBride for the position of Secretary

Nominations were asked for three times; There being no other nominations, nominations were closed.

With a roll call vote, Marlene McBride was elected Secretary of the Planning Commission for 2014, 5 to 0.

Appointment of a Recording Secretary 2014 Once Elected the Secretary may appoint a Recording Secretary to handle the administrative functions of the office.

Marlene McBride appointed Denise Blakeslee to act as the Recording Secretary for the Planning Commission for the year 2014.

OLD BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

A copy of an e-mail from Gary Patulski was given to Leah DuMouchel, Beckett & Raeder, Inc. who facilitated the City of Manistee Visioning Session on November 21, 2013 and was included in the summary. Each member of the Planning Commission received a copy of the email with their meeting packet. The email read as follows:

Since I am unable to attend the upcoming November meeting regarding Manistee's vision I would like to provide some input.

The vision for Manistee should be: "Take care of the residents, pride will return, people will see and come"

It should come as no surprise that the top priorities for Manistee should be:

1. Local Streets
2. Ending Subsidies to all City Enterprises
3. Tax incentives for Home Improvements
4. Jobs
5. Business Growth
6. Population Growth

I have listed them in order of controllability by the City and which can be most directly impacted by the City.

Manistee's current Strategic Plan is extremely weak and does not contain measurable quantifiable goals or clear responsibility. In Example, the goal for the Industrial Park is to be at 100% capacity. But When? In 2100? What is the goal for 2014, 2015, 2016? Who is responsible if the goal is not met? If you are not going to have measurable goals and clear accountability you don't have a Strategic Plan.

The future projected debt subsidies to the Ramdell Theatre exceeding \$1.6 million must cease immediately. Way too much money has been spent on that facility which the City projects will still not be a breakeven business by 2028! Shame on the City for throwing millions of good money after millions of bad.

Jobs and Business growth really go hand in hand. Manistee must draw larges retail businesses to keep the shopping local and stop residents traveling to Ludington and Traverse City to shop.

No City funds should be spent for ANY new Recreational or Tourist based Capital Projects. The majority of Manistee's tourists are drawn by the Casino not a City facility.

Manistee is a Blue Collar town and it needs to return to its roots. Please call or email me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Gary Patulski 832-334-8290

STAFF/SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Denise Blakeslee, Planning & Zoning Administrator – Each member was given a copy of the Visioning Summary that was emailed this afternoon along with a copy of “New Master Plans will need to be very different from traditional ones” that was downloaded from the MSU Master Citizen Planner News. Ms. Blakeslee received a draft of the survey that is being prepared and noted that a comment section needed to be added to the survey.

Chair Yoder and Ms. Blakeslee discussed the opinion from City Attorney George Saylor that will allow Mark Wittlief to continue to serve on the Planning Commission and City Council.

MEMBERS DISCUSSION

Holiday wishes were exchanged.

The Planning Commission does not have a Worksession scheduled for December.

The next regular meeting of the Planning Commission will be held on Thursday, January 2, 2014

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ray Fortier, seconded by Marlene McBride that the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

MANISTEE PLANNING COMMISSION

Denise J. Blakeslee, Recording Secretary