

CITY OF MANISTEE PLANNING COMMISSION WORKSESSION

70 Maple Street, Manistee, MI 49660

January 17, 2013

NOTES

A meeting of the Manistee City Planning Commission was held on Thursday, January 17, 2013 at 7pm in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 70 Maple Street, Manistee, Michigan.

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Chair Yoder

Roll Call:

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

Members Absent: David Crockett (excused)

Others: Jon R. Rose (Community Development Director), Denise Blakeslee (Planning & Zoning)

Questionnaire – As a component of the Master Plan Update the Members of the Planning Commission have been working on an exercise that will assist them in the update of the Plan. Each member was asked to compile a list of Likes, Dislikes, and Improvements they want to see in the Community. This list was compiled for the members to have a final opportunity to add items to the list, then by consensus pick the top five items in each category. Items that were worded similarly were reworded as a single line item on the list. Each Commissioner ranked the items on the list 1 through 5; then a value was given to each ranking as follows:

Ranking System

#1 – 5 points

#2 – 4 points

#3 – 3 points

#4 – 2 points

#5 – 1 point

| Ranked/Score | Things I Like about Manistee - Top Five Responses |
|--------------|---|
| 1 / 30 | <i>Natural Bodies of Water (Lake Michigan Shoreline, Beaches, Manistee Lake, Manistee River Channel, Man-Made Lake)</i> |
| 2 / 14 | <i>Safe, friendly, family oriented, small town atmosphere, solid sense of community</i> |
| 3 / 10 | <i>Cultural opportunities in the area; The Ramsdell Theatre is a true gem with the Arts and Theater; Music on Tuesdays at the Gazebo and Thursdays on the River; renovating Vogue Theatre; Museums; Festivals</i> |
| 4 / 9 | <i>Recreational opportunities (Riverwalk, Parks, Golf, Indoor Pool, Indoor Walking Track, etc)</i> |
| 5 / 6 (tied) | <i>Manistee has a great school system with great sports teams and academics</i> |
| 5 / 6 (tied) | <i>Great City services Fire, Police, Roads, Trash pickup</i> |

| Ranked/Score | Things I dislike about Manistee – Top Five Responses |
|----------------------|--|
| <i>1 / 15</i> | <i>The lack of opportunity for high school and college graduates to obtain a well-paid job with future opportunity for advancement</i> |
| <i>2 / 14 (tied)</i> | <i>City Taxes, Higher taxes than surrounding townships</i> |
| <i>2 / 14 tied</i> | <i>Limited choices in restaurants</i> |
| <i>4 / 13</i> | <i>Limited Shopping opportunities, hours and selection, closed on Sundays, closed evenings (summer also)</i> |
| <i>5 / 9</i> | <i>Condition of buildings, empty storefronts and streetscape</i> |

| Ranked/Score | Improvements I would like to see – Top Five Responses |
|---------------|---|
| <i>1 / 17</i> | <i>Choices for everything (Restaurants, shopping, recreation, entertainment)</i> |
| <i>2 / 15</i> | <i>Job increase</i> |
| <i>3 / 14</i> | <i>Better Co-op between City and outlying areas; Manistee Agencies/Township pulling together to bring more manufacturing and retail jobs to Manistee and the County; Open forums with the City Council, Planning Commission, AES and Chamber held away from City Hall</i> |
| <i>4 / 9</i> | <i>Improved and expanded tourist information for the Manistee area (Midwest Living article an excellent example); Enhanced promotion of Manistee to Michigan and the Midwest (e.g. boating publication); promotion of Manistee County as a site for new industry and business which would employ larger numbers of people and increase starting wage levels; Create a positive acceptance of new industry and business from our local leaders and existing business</i> |
| <i>5 / 6</i> | <i>Economic development focus on solid long-term job growth More improvement from community such as restarting of the Tuesday Committee</i> |

The Commissioners will be given 2010 Census Information to review the changes in census since 2000 at the February Meeting. The Commission will begin developing preliminary Goals at the February Meeting.

Master Plan Update – The Commission discussed the need to begin working on updating the Plan. They were asked if they would like to add to each agenda a Worksession following the meeting or if they would like to schedule a Worksession for 6 pm that would end at 7 pm before each regularly scheduled meeting. Consensus was to try holding worksessions after meetings.

The next regular meeting of the Planning Commission will be held on Thursday, February 7, 2013.

ADJOURNMENT

The Worksession adjourned at 8:45 pm

MANISTEE PLANNING COMMISSION

Denise J. Blakeslee, Recording Secretary