



MEETING MINUTES

**Augusta Charter Township
Regularly Scheduled Planning Commission Meeting**

BY:.....

Township Hall
Wednesday, August 21, 2013
6:30 p.m.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Newsome at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call and Recognition of Visitors

Attendees: D. Bennett, B. Blackmon, D. Newsome, R. Selter, J. Thornton

Absent: G. Chie, D. McMahan

Comm. McMahan was absent at roll call but joined the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

There were (5) visitors in attendance as well as Planner Laura Kreps.

Approval of Agenda

Motion was made by Selter, support by Thornton to approve agenda as presented.
Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Selter, support by Blackmon to postpone approval of July 17, 2013 meeting minutes so that corrections could be made. Motion carried unanimously. Planner Kreps, Comm. Thornton, and audience member B. Tobler identified items needing correction.

Public Hearings – None

Business Items

Determination of Similar Use - Planner Laura Kreps explained the application for “bed & breakfast” as an existing special land use, and the need for determination of similar use for “barn weddings” to an existing special land use (church or country club) for applicant to proceed with application for special land use. Applicant was in attendance and indicated that initially “barn wedding” usage would be Saturday only. Planner Kreps and Comm. Thornton pointed out that applicant should not limit herself to days/times unnecessarily in application.

Discussion ensued regarding requirements for public hearing, notification of proximate properties and process for application for special land use, at which time a site plan and other materials are required. Planner Kreps pointed out that “barn weddings” would very likely be less intense usage of land than other permitted special land uses. Comm. Bennett pointed out that usage would be very similar to church, which is a permitted special land use.

Motion was made by Newsome, support by Bennett that Planning Commission approve the application for determination of similar use for "barn wedding", as similar to special land use church and country club and will not be more intense usage than other permitted special land uses listed in ordinance. Motion carried unanimously.

Master Plan Review Discussion – Planner Kreps reminded Planning Commission of joint Township Board / Planning Commission meeting Monday August 26, 2013. Meeting will be a work session for both groups, with a presentation by Don Wortman, Ralph Pasola, and Laura Kreps who will all be in attendance.

Open Discussion for Issues Not on the Agenda

Correspondence Received – Planner Kreps distributed Augusta Charter Township Planning Commission By-Laws (updated July 2011). No other correspondence received.

Planning Commission Members – Comm. McMahon queried Commissioners regarding pay for meeting attendance. Comms. Bennett and Newsome replied they had received compensation for only one meeting. Comm. Thornton took notes and confirmed she would take this issue to the board.

Comm. McMahon identified that he is hearing impaired and is requesting sound amplification system to be used during meetings. He identified his hearing impairment and request for sound amplification system with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Members of the Audience – B. Tobler clarified that the Township Clerk's Office issues payroll, using the draft minutes of the meeting to determine attendance, and that the MI Open Meetings Act requires that draft minutes be filed with Clerk's Office within 7 business days of the meeting.

Audience member D. Mallonen supported Comm. McMahon request for sound amplification system during meetings as it is difficult to hear, especially with fan unit running.

Report of Township Board Representative – None

Report of Zoning Board of Appeals Representative – None (not present)

Report of Planning Consultant – Reminder of joint meeting on following Monday.

Adjournment

Motion made by Newsome, support by Selter for adjournment. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Commissioner Selter, due to Recording Secretary McMahon's absence at start of meeting.

approved copy submitted by
Don A. McMahon 10/22/13