

# Columbia Township Planning Commission Minutes

Meeting Date: Tuesday January 7, 2020 7:00 pm

1. Call to order by Chairperson Mahr at 7:03
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call: Gaede, Briescke, McKay, Mahr, Jeffreys, Wanty ,Reynolds

Public Comments: None

4. Motion to approve the agenda made by Reynolds; support by McKay, Gaede requested the Agenda be revised to have Public Comment be moved to Agenda Item # 5 Ayes all to amended agenda.

5. Motion by Reynolds, support by Jeffreys to approve the minutes of December 11, 2019. Ayes all.

6. Commissioner Comments: Planning Commissioner Member, Andrew Brieschke has moved from the Township to Williamston, MI. He has volunteered to stay on the Planning Commission until his replacement can be appointed. See attached letter to Supervisor Eldrod.

Commissioner Jeffreys commented and thanked Andrew for his excellent work on behalf of the Township and the Planning Commission, agreed upon by all members.

Chairperson Mahr and Secretary Wanty will be meeting Wednesday January 8, 2020 with Columbia Township Supervisor Elrod, Treasurer Calhoun and Secretary Marsh to discuss the logistics of Master Plan revision and approval process. At issue, is the approval of the changes either by the Planning Commission or the Township Board?

8. Purpose of the meeting: **Update of the Township Master Plan**

a. Reviewed and amended the Letter Of Intent to be sent to neighboring agencies that we intend to revise the Master Plan. Several new entities were added.

b. Reviewed and amended the proposed Press Release to address the intention to modify the Columbia Township Master Plan. This will be presented in the meeting on January 8, 2020. Brieschke suggested adding to the Township website as well. Proposed to add times and dates of meetings.

9. Old Business:

Mahr to Reynolds, does the Township have a Strategic Plan to implement the Master Plan, Reynolds responded, no.

Gaede: The Planning Commission should be involved and tasked to contribute to the Capital Improvement Plans for the Township; this has not been in place in past years.

Mahr: Discussed the old citizen survey from 2004 and the Planning Commissions efforts in 2018 and 2019 to update, it is felt that this step is important in the revision to the new Master Plan, in addition to Futuring Workshops ( Townhall Meetings) for local citizen input. The survey should be mailed to tax rolls, other discussions were to use Survey Monkey, to expand our reach and participation.

Reynolds: There is a concern with the Township Board with the Surveys effect on the newly implemented ordinances.

Mahr and company: We need (8) color copies of the Land Use Maps in the Master Plan, most member copies are black and white.

Brieschke: Will there be minutes of the Jan 8 meeting? No minutes to be kept.

Mahr: Discussed various wording aspects of the Abstract portion of the MP, Brieschke will make revisions to review on January 14, 2020 meeting. Various wording discussions ensued.

Introduction of Master Plan: There was discussion of possible revisions, based on the letter from Land Plan. Reynolds discussed the River Raisin Flow wording, as it has several small tributaries starting the flow through the township. Lake Columbia and Clark Lake as the primary beginning.

Goals and Objectives: The Commission does not feel this section is as lacking as described by Land Plan.

Mahr: Requested that all members review the Zoning Map before we proceed too far, also review the Demographic information.

Brieschke: Motioned, supported by Jeffreys to request a formal approval of the Resolution presented to the Township Board members on 01-8-2020 in regard to Option 1 or Option 2 as to the approval body of the revised Master Plan, the Planning Commission of the Township Board. Ayes-all but Gaede, who did not vote.

Public Comments: None 8:49 pm closed

Commissioner Comments: Mahr discussed her recent ZBA vote on a 73' variance for a road-front driveway, if the zoning had been revised to AG from R1, there was no need to variant, and she was voicing her disappointment.

Motion to adjourn by Jeffreys, support by Brieschke, ayes all.

Meeting adjourned 8:58

Respectfully submitted,

*Todd Wanty*

Todd Wanty-Secretary