

Proposed
Village of Kent City
Planning Commission Meeting
August 7, 2008
83 Spring St., Kent City, MI

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm by John Petruska.

Members Present: Ed Lain, Rick Merdzinski, Hillary Hilbrand, John Petruska, Darrell Rotier

Members Absent: Steve Buckner

Staff Present: Tom Knauf Zoning Administrator

Others Present: Dave Mitchell

2. Approval of June 30, 2008 minutes was approved with the correction of removing the change of agenda of moving Old Business A and moving to New Business B.
Motion by Rotier 2nd by Merdzinski 5 Ayes 0 Nays Motion Carried

3. Agenda

Petruska added item B (family dollar has asked about putting in sidewalk in front of store from road 17 mile through grass area to parking lot) questioning what they might need to do to put one in. Petruska also suggested that the planning commission add item C to New Business as adding the Enabling Act.

Motion by Lain 2nd by Merdzinski 5 ayes 0 Nays Motion Carried

4. New Business

- A. Verify version of your manuals- manuals are to have cover page with the date of July 13, 2006
- B. Family Dollar Sidewalk- Manager of Family Dollar inquired about a cement walkway from 17 mile through the grass to their parking lot- they wanted to know what the village could do. Petruska informed the Planning Commission that we should find out how much of the grass is in the highway right of way before anything could be done. Tom Knauf suggested that the planning commission bring this in front of the Village Council- Petruska said the this changes the property then the site plan would have to reviewed-or can it be done without the site plan. Tom Knauf suggested that we should ask Steve to measure the grass to see how much is the highway right of way and how much is Family Dollar property- Question was brought up that would this be Villages responsibility in the winter to plow?? Knauf said that Planning Commission should recommend sidewalk- but Rotier also on Village Council said that discussions on the Council on sidewalks was that sidewalks will be minimal to one side of the road. Merdzinski asked that if there is a sidewalk on Family Dollar side of 17 mile (N) would we have to have crosswalk labeling on the (S) side of 17 mile encouraging a crosswalk.-Rotier then stated that then we would be more of a crosswalk.-

Petruska said if Family Dollar wants a cement slab in the grass then we need to figure out what is the property line is and Petruska and Knauf discussed back and forth that putting it in highway right of way it would be a big issue and that Tom Piper may need to be involved and need a recommendation to Commission for sidewalk – This was brought to Commissions attention and may be brought up again later.

- C. Enabling Act- Tom Knauf brought the Enabling Act to the Planning Commissions attention because of the questions of how many members can serve on both the Planning Commission and Village Council. There have been some minor changes. According the Act we the Planning Commission can have 5,7,or 9 members. The main question is if a council member can serve on planning commission being an elected official from the council? Question should be brought up to attorney Mike Meyer. Rotier found on Page 4 in the Act special rules the govern that question. Commission also talked of the Capital Expenditure Plan- each year the Planning Commission is to have a proposed expenditure report decided that this was not important. The Act also states that the Planning Commission is to have an agenda to the Village Council each year also. Petruska asked Knauf if the Act stated how many meetings the Commission is to have each year. Knauf said the Act says 4. The Planning Commission other than the 4 mandatory meetings should have meetings if only someone comes in and requests to meet with the Planning Commission. Petruska asked Rotier about the wording on bottom of 3 to top of page 4 if that describes if Elected Member from Council can serve as Chair in Planning Commission Rotier not sure-this will also be up to the lawyer to decide and whether or not that it will have to be an ordinance. Discussion on the Enabling Act was left open for the members to read and ask questions at next meeting or to get a hold of Tom Knauf.

5. Old Business-Signs/Rules for the Walking Path

Sandra was unable to make it. Planning Commission discussed and decided that NO MOTOR VECHILES driven on walking path. Lain had been out to look at the park and the walking path and had a concern with the dirt parking lot to the path in where to put the barriers. Petruska asked what type of barriers should be used. He brought up shrubs, or a fence, also informed the Commission that the Beautification Group would like to plant some shrubs in memorial for local vets. Lain asked if the shrubs would block view from parents watching their kids? Petruska said that they should not be a problem if placed properly and low shrubs. Rotier did not like the idea of a fence but a low bush was ok. Lain suggested wooden posts like in park on 17 mile just before fire station. Petruska liked the idea of wooden pegs 5-6 feet apart with flowers around them and talking to the beautification committee. Rotier suggested shrubbery from the sidewalk to the street and maybe some up to and if not to cover the pumping station. Knauf stated a memorial was a good idea in or on the pathway for local service men and women with maybe a flag pole and lights.

Rules and signs were discussed and a question was asked of the signs should have ordinance numbers with them. Rotier informed the commission that we could do

that to have more police enforcement if the rules are not being followed. Planning Commission to recommend to Council to put signs up without ordinance numbers on them. Also Commission is to make a recommendation to Council what we would like to see on the signs. Rules that Planning Commission has come up with are Dogs on Leashes, Hours Dawn to Dusk, NO MOTOR VEHICALS. Discussion on this matter is left to be Planning Commissions homework till next meeting giving Commission members to take pictures of other parks and what their signs say, and where there are trash bins and what we would like to see at our walkway.

6. Public Comment

Dave Mitchell made a comment on how he appreciated the fast work and attention he got from the village on working on getting police out in the speed zone in front of the school on Peach ridge. Mitchell also said that the parks are great.

7. Zoning Administrators Report

Tom has reported that he mailed the report but some out comes of citation he has had 2 court dates coming up on Monday August 11 2008.

116 N. East Street has had a court date to pay restitution to the village, and has a bench warrant

84 1st Street made restitution to the village and shown up for court appearance and was told his next fine if given one more ticket in the next year will be \$500 dollars.

Knauf said biggest problems with ordinances are with the foreclosed homes.

8. Commissioner Remarks

None

9. Adjournment

Petruska adjourned the meeting at 8:20pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Hillary Hilbrand, Secretary
Planning Commission