

Manistee County Planning Building • 395 Third Street • Manistee, Michigan 49660

DRAFT
Thursday, September 22, 2022
Immediately following the
Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Meeting

Manistee County Board Room
415 Third Street, Manistee MI

MINUTES

A. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Becker-Witt at 6:33 pm.

Members Present: Eleanor DeYoung, Glenn Zaring, Ted Batzer, Duane Jones, and Mary Becker-Witt

Members Absent: Phil Landis and Margaret Batzer

Ex-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Szokola Planning Director, Katie Mehl City Zoning /Planner 1, Jodie Lynch Planner 1, Nancy Baker Planning Secretary/Assistant to Planner

OTHERS PRESENT: Mark Miller, Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Director

B. Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Batzer moved, seconded by Mr. Zaring to approve the September 22, 2022, agenda as printed. Motion passed with a voice vote.

C. Public Comment.

None

D. House Keeping Business

Act to approve the August 25, 2022 Minutes.

Mr. Zaring moved, seconded by Mr. Jones to approve the August 25, 2022, minutes as printed. Motion passed with a voice vote.

E. Unfinished Business and Reports.

1. Chamber of Commerce—Mark Miller, Economic Director

Marc Miller, Economic Developer:

- Work on creating/retaining jobs and better quality of life
- Create opportunity for sustainable economic growth for the future
- Key projects: Hampton Inn on track for June 2023 opening, WSCC downtown building, Gateway demolition and future project
- Getting developers interested in investing in the downtown area and other communities

- Incentives for companies to come into the county
- Bridging gaps between financial institutions, builders high costs/lack of materials, etc. assisting with Brownfield concerns, bringing outdated buildings up to date
- Strong look at what is needed and wanted in the communities
- Housing needs

2. Planning Department Update

Mr. Szokola:

- Capital Improvement Plan: County wanting Planning Department (PD) to take this on, PD would follow the required procedure if doing the Plan, County Board can do the Plan, Plan needs to be updated, should be budgeted for 5/6 years with the shifting/update of the Plan each year
- Could take on another township if villages zoning is not done by the PD
- Participated in leadership at “Big Day of Serving” put on by the Chamber
- Potential projects include financial courses for high schoolers and county residents; places such as Filer Credit Union would bring lots of knowledge and experience to this project
- RR relocation: program is moving forward, planning process October 4th, many participants are getting involved
- Housing position now staffed; objective is working on county housing issue
- Rec Comm; funding a position
- Joslin Cove; modifying site plan
- Harbor Village; process of amending their plan
- ZBA packets for communities
- Under budget for the year
- Code enforcement officer needed

3. Ms. Mehl:

- City: amendment was done, many blight and zoning items, Gateway permit under review, annual report for HDC and PC presented to City Council

Ms. Lynch:

- Issuing permits, accomplishing site inspections to bring permits up-to-date, code enforcement letters

4. Meetings and Trainings Attended by Planning Commission Members

Mr. Zaring, Technology: integrating new firewalls for the county, rotation of equipment, discussion if used equipment can be offered to nonprofit organizations, busy with soil erosion inspections.

F. New Business & Communications

1. By-Laws review

Ms. Lynch: presented a memo on Rules of Procedure to allow for Student Member, and reviewed the By-Law amendments.

Mr. Szokola: student participation; did a radio interview on the subject, applicants will be interviewed by the PC, open to the entire county, will approach the County Board on amending their By-laws.

**Mr. Jones motioned, seconded by Mr. Batzer to accept the By-Laws as amended.
Motion passed with a voice vote.**

2. Committee List

Discussion on Committee List appointments.

Mr. Batzer motioned, seconded by Mr. Jones to appoint Mr. Jones to the Bear Creek Watershed Council as an alternate and appoint Ms. Lynch to the Betsie River Review Board. Motion passed with a voice vote.

3. Other business from Planning Commission members or its staff

G. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned by call of the Chair at 7:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Baker

Nancy Baker, Recording Secretary, for
Eleanor DeYoung, Secretary, Manistee County Planning Commission
Date: September 22, 2022