

**CITY OF IONIA**  
**Planning Commission**  
**February 8, 2017**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**

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- RECEIVE UPDATE Prior to the start of the meeting, DDA Director Linda Curtis provided an update regarding the DDA's wayfinding sign project which will be completed this year with professional assistance provided by the Spicer Group. She also provided an update regarding the MEDC Redevelopment Ready program and the City's status in terms of the certification process associated with the program.
- CALL TO ORDER The Regular Meeting of the City of Ionia Planning Commission for February 8, 2017 was called to order by Chairperson Tim Lee at 4:43 PM.
- ROLL CALL Roll Call revealed Commissioners Dave Cook, Mark Jennings, Tim Lee, and Chris Young present. Commissioners Boomer Hoppough and Gordon Kelley were excused.
- City Manager Jason Eppler, DDA Director Linda Curtis, Planning Consultant Jan Johnson and District Library Director Dale Parus were also present.
- APPROVAL OF AGENDA Chairperson Lee reviewed the agenda with the Commission. After review, it was moved by Commissioner Cook, seconded by Commissioner Kelley to approve the agenda for the February 8, 2017 meeting as presented. MOTION CARRIED.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES The Commission reviewed the minutes of the January 11, 2017 Regular Meeting. After review it was moved by Commissioner Cook, seconded by Commissioner Jennings to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2017 Commission meeting as presented. MOTION CARRIED.
- PUBLIC COMMENTS Easton Township resident Kathleen Cook, on behalf of the Ionia County Historical Society, read a prepared statement regarding the proposed Library Street reconstruction project and Ionia County Court House project and the importance of preserving architecturally and historically significant assets in the community.
- Ionia Township resident Stacy Tchorzynski presented the Commission with a written outline containing seven questions concerning the proposed Ionia County Court

House/Friend of the Court project. She reviewed these questions with the Commission.

## OLD BUSINESS

Library Street Reconstruction – Parking Configuration: The City Manager reported that at its January meeting the Library Board reviewed the parking configuration options for Library Street. He further reported that after review of the options, the Library Board requested that angled parking be placed along the east side of Library Street in order to maximize public parking in this area. He further stated that the Library Board understands that two of the three trees on the Library lawn in this area will need to be removed.

Library Director Parus provided an update regarding the facility master plan process being discussed by the Library Board. He stated that the process is underway with the Library likely requesting approval of a facility millage at the November 6, 2018 election.

The Commission discussed the status of the County's proposed Court House addition project. The City Manager reported that bids for the project are to be opened on February 22, 2017 with the Board of Commissioner's likely accepting a bid by March 1<sup>st</sup>. He suggested that the Commission defer action regarding the parking configuration on Library Street until after the Board of Commissioners accepts a bid for the County's project. He further stated that in the event that bids come in higher than the amount budgeted for the project, the scope of the project may need to be revised which may impact the proposed layout of Library Street.

Updates to the Zoning Ordinance – Medical Marihuana: The City Manager reported that the City's attorney, Andria Ditschman, is currently working on revisions to the zoning ordinance pertaining to the caregiver/patient medical marihuana relationship. The draft should be available for the Commission's review at its March meeting.

The Commission also discussed options for soliciting public opinion regarding business activities associated with medical marihuana. Ms. Johnson provided some suggestions as to how public opinion on the topic can be collected through the master plan update process.

## NEW BUSINESS

Planning Commission Annual Report for 2016: The Planning Commission reviewed the proposed 2016 Planning Commission Annual Report which is proposed to be

presented to Council at its March 7, 2017 meeting. After review, it was moved by Commissioner Cook, seconded by Commissioner Jennings to approve the 2016 Planning Commission Annual Report. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS None.

ADJOURNMENT It was moved by Commissioner Cook, seconded by Commissioner Jennings to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 PM. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason Eppler  
City Manager  
Recording Secretary for Dave Cook, Secretary