

CITY OF IONIA
Planning Commission
July 13, 2011
Regular Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER The Regular Meeting of the City of Ionia Planning Commission for July 13, 2011 was called to order by Chairman Mark Jennings at 4:00 PM.

ROLL CALL Roll Call revealed Commissioners Dave Cook, Boomer Hoppough, Mark Jennings, Gordon Kelley, Evonne Ulmer and Chris Young present.

Commissioners Ted Paton was excused.

Those also in attendance included Officer Doug DeVries, Planning Consultant Tim Johnson, Parks and Recreation Director Matt Painter and City Manager Jason Eppler.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA Chairman Jennings reviewed the agenda with the Commission. After review, it was moved by Commissioner Hoppough, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve the agenda for the July 13, 2011 meeting as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES The Commission reviewed the minutes of the April 13, 2011 Regular Meeting. After review it was moved by Commissioner Cook, seconded by Commissioner Hoppough to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2011 Commission meeting as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS None.

OLD BUSINESS Limited Industrial Amendment: The City Manager reported that this agenda item, after having been referred back to the Commission by the City Council, has been on the Commission's for many months without action. He advised that he would not include this item on the agenda of future meetings unless so requested by a member of the Commission.

NEW BUSINESS Review of Proposal for Updating Master Plan/Recreation Plan: The City Manager introduced the City's Planning Consultant, Tim Johnson, and advised the Commission that he had invited Mr. Johnson to the meeting so that Mr. Johnson could review with the Commission his proposed work plan for updating both the City's Master Plan and Recreation Plan. The City Manager reported that the FY11-

12 City Budget includes funding for updating both plans. The Master Plan, statutorily, needs to be reviewed and updated by the Commission every five years. The Commission last updated the Master Plan in 2007. He also reported that the City's Recreation Plan has expired and in order to compete for parks grants, a current plan must be on file with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. He reported that there are economies to updating both plans simultaneously utilizing the same consultant.

Mr. Johnson reviewed the proposed work plan with the Commission. He shared with the Commission options for including public input opportunities in the development of both plans. He also discussed options for completing citizen surveys. He stated that there was an in-depth public input component when the 2000 Master Plan was completed. He proposed to expand on that component with the updating of the 2007 plan.

Parks and Recreation Director Matt Painter shared his thoughts on the process to update the Recreation Plan. He suggested that an advisory committee be formed to assist with the process.

Mr. Johnson shared with the Commission a proposed timetable for updating both plans. After receiving comments from the Commission, Mr. Johnson advised that he would revise his proposal and then discuss the proposed completion schedule with the City Manager. The City Manager advised that he would like the Commission to begin the planning process no later than October.

Update of Animal Ordinance: The City Manager reported that the Deputy Mayor suggested to the City Council that a committee be formed to update the City's current Animal Ordinance, which dates to the early 1970s. At the Deputy Mayor's request the City Manager has formed a work group tasked with this project. The work group consists of Deputy Mayor Patrick, Councilmember Miller, Planning Commission Chairperson Mark Jennings and Vice-Chairperson Ted Paton. The City Manager and Public Safety Director Dave Bulling will also assist. The Miller Canfield law firm will serve as counsel to the work group.

The City Manager further reported that the work group will meet in July, August and September and then provide a recommendation to the City Council regarding updates. The Commission will be provided a draft for review.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Cook stated that he is concerned over the large number of bikers/skateboarders using the sidewalks downtown rather than the streets.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Cook, seconded by Commissioner Young to adjourn the meeting at 4:55 PM.
MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason Eppler
City Manager/Recording Secretary
for
Boomer Hoppough, Secretary