

**Village of Mackinaw City  
Special Meeting  
Planning Commission  
April 10, 2008  
Approved Minutes**

Present: Rob Most (Chairman), Jeff Hingston, Doc Taylor, Florence Tracy, Mary Clark, Paul Allers, Nancy Dean and Rosada Mann  
Absent: None  
Staff: Jeff Lawson (Village Manager) and Leigh Ann Moscato (Staff Secretary)  
Guests: See attached.

<b>REGULAR MEETING</b>		
<b>1</b>	<b>Call to order and welcome</b>	<b>Call to order</b>
<b>2</b>	Regular meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Most. Roll call - members present: J. Hingston, D. Taylor, F. Tracy, M. Clark, R. Most, P. Allers, R. Mann and N. Dean. Members absent: None	<b>Roll Call</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Pledge to Flag was recited.</b>	<b>Pledge to Flag</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Motion Hingston supported Taylor to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 27, 2008, as revised. Voice vote – all ayes. Motion carried.</b>	<b>Review and approval of minutes</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Public Comments:</b> Moehl as representative of the Coast Guard Mackinaw expressed his thanks for two donated owls, which are working, and was appreciative for those people who get involved.	<b>Public Comments</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Old Business</b>	<b>Old Business</b>
<b>6A</b>	Staff provided a general review of the Plan and indicated that meetings and public hearing occurred over the last year establishing the preliminary goals.  The following topics were reviewed and discussed:  1) Promote Village recreation programs and facilities.  a. Develop a recreational map that shows all available public and private recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. Promote and market these maps to all available user groups.  b. Expand the parks system concept to include blueways, or bodies of water and water trails. Develop blueways and water trails with maps. Market these blueways and implement water trails planning with neighboring jurisdictions.  2) Ensure adequate maintenance and barrier-free access to all parks, both existing and future.  3) Enhance accessibility and aesthetics of existing waterfront parks.	<b>Review of Mackinaw City Parks, Recreation and Greenways Plan Workshop</b>

- 4) Develop policies that preserve valuable natural and historical assets that are either already in our parks system or in need of acquisition as a park.
- 5) Improve “connections” to the parks.
- 6) Establish additional parks that serve west-side residential areas.
- 7) Ensure that new and existing parks preserve open space and protect natural state of the park’s features.
- 8) Continue to seek waterfront land for additions to the public park system.
- 9) Enhance accessibility to restrooms for park users.
- 10) Expand the amenities at the Recreation Complex.
- 11) Establish dog-friendly parks that improve compatibility of residents’ and visitors’ dogs with the intended users.
- 12) Continue with tree inventory updates and utilize designation as a Tree City to raise awareness of their importance in beautification of the Village and long-term health of our environment.
- 13) Add family-oriented senior activities and amenities to the parks and recreation system.
- 14) Establish and communicate clear guidelines for beach cleaning so that they are enjoyable and protect the natural features as required by environmental laws.

Action Plan:

Staff reviewed the proposed projects identified in the Plan and outlined the projects that would be most eligible for grant applications.

Staff provided a trail system proposal to connect the DNR Trail to the Recreation Center via street right-of-way; and a proposal to develop a trail from the Recreation Center to the Historic Village via Village property and requesting easements from private property owners.

Need for Recreation Center sound baffles at the Recreation Center for better acoustics.

MCSA would remodel the north end of Recreation Center by developing a meeting room and dry walling the area.

Campbell Park improvement, landscaping, irrigation, etc.

<p>Future developments to the Historic Village were reviewed and it was discussed that it would be developed in phases. The following items were evaluated: parking, walking areas, determine plant specimens as rare species to increase State ranking, night sky development, development of natural settings such as a meditation area, etc.</p> <p>Create a park for wind turbine viewing where information could be provided at the park identifying wind turbines facts with references to nature and animals.</p> <p>Dry Dock Lake is the Village’s natural drainage system. Arnold has been approached to purchase the area for the possible development of a park.</p> <p>Placement of smaller signs identifying bathrooms, dog runs, etc.</p>	
<p>Most called for recess at 8:15 p.m. Meeting resumed at 8:22 p.m. by Most.</p>	<b>Recess</b>
<p>Public Comments were as follows:</p> <p>The possibility of developing an endowment fund so that public can make donations to purchase waterfront property.</p> <p>The preservation of natural assets.</p> <p>To seek waterfront land for purchase.</p> <p>To eliminate the possibility of losing view of the lake through the continued commercial development of North Huron Avenue.</p> <p>Develop a property purchase plan should property become available for purchase along the waterfront.</p> <p>The combined purchase of waterfront.</p> <p>Possible incentives to maintain the use of parking along Huron Avenue as parking for the Ferries.</p> <p>Put up interpretation signs along the waterfront as it relates to the State’s “blueways”, i.e. Cedarville wreck, modern commerce, the meaning of freighters as it relates to the vitality of Country’s economy, how the Straits are utilized, maritime artifacts, etc.</p> <p>Develop beautification program along maritime corridor.</p> <p>Possible development of Wawatam park as a dog park and providing signage, dog bags, garbage removal, etc.</p> <p>Reword signs to identify where dogs are allowed – utilizing proactive signage.</p>	

	<p>Continue development of family activities without a large pocketbook expense such as use of biking trails, bird watching, etc. Develop archery at the rink and promote the development of an archery club.</p> <p>Develop a shooting club at the Village's range.</p> <p>Develop a community garden or farm, which would allow people to grow crops (something like a Victory Garden).</p>	
	<p>Most called for a recess at 9:35 pm. Meeting back in session at 9:37 p.m. by Most.</p>	<b>Recess</b>
<b>6B</b>	Request by Most to move the discussion of the Marina Commercial District to the next meeting. It was the general consensus of the board to move this matter to the next meeting.	<b>Discussion of Marina Commercial District</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>New Business</b> There was no new business presented at the meeting.	<b>New Business</b>
<b>8</b>	Staff indicated that the following matters will be presented at the next meeting: 1) A driveway relocation at Thunderfalls water park. 2) A sign variance for the IMM Coast Guard Cutter. 3) B-2 Amendment language.	<b>Commissioner Comments</b>
<b>9</b>	Next Regular meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. and the next Special Meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.	<b>Commissioner Calendar</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Motion Dean supported by Allers to adjourn at 10:00 p.m. Voice vote – all ayes. Motion carried.</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>

Planning Commission Minutes respectfully submitted:

Rob Most, Chairman

Mary Clark, Secretary