

ONEKAMA COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY, NOV.21, 2013, 7 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Chairman Jim Trout.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Members present: Al Taylor, Susan Barnard, Tom Koon, Roger Cody, Suzanne Schwing, Bonnie Miller, Rudy Milasich, Charlotte Straight, Jim Trout. Also present: Township Board Trustee James Wisniski and Village Trustee Alice Hendricks.

MINUTES: Motion by Barnard, second by Koon to accept the minutes of the Oct. 17, 2013 Regular Meeting as presented. Motion carried.

ITEMS TO BE ADDED TO AGENDA: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Trout reported on two recent Z.B.A. Hearing decisions.

MASTER PLAN : Taylor explained there are tasks that need to be done as part of the five year review of the plan, according to the Michigan Planning Enabling Act. The commission reviews the data in the plan for consistency with more current information. Based on the findings, the commission decides whether new, or more accurate information has become available since the creation of the current plan. And, ordinances need to be reviewed to be consistent with the Community Master Plan. Are there basic flaws in the document that need to be addressed?

Discussion by the planners followed as a means of beginning of the review process.

Cody: I would hate to trash it; this would be a monumental task (to start over). An issue I see is that the Community Master Plan didn't address the size of the community.

Taylor: This is a 15-25 year document. Some things were futuristic.

Cody: I recommend we don't trash the plan. Improvement doesn't necessarily mean growth.

Koon: There are lots of things some people can't see for the next five years. Not everybody likes the change.

Taylor: You are talking as citizens; when you talk as planners you have to represent the people.

Trout: Since 2010 we have received additional input on the Plan and what the community wants and will accept, most recently in our struggle to develop and revise certain Zoning Ordinance sections. Any revision should reflect that input.

Barnard: I think that we should move forward by looking at what changes and revisions are needed to make the Plan better reflect the vision of the community . I do not think we should start over.

Taylor: The planners are the only ones who need to approve this second plan—by law. Ordinances should reflect the Community Master Plan.

Miller: I agree with the others.

Milasich: Don't throw it out. The old plan should be looked at and changed as necessary.

Schwing: I had a couple of issues with the plan when it came out. I would not scrap the plan. Keep it, update it, make changes as needed. Keep it and involve the community.

Taylor: We will talk about steps we take and where we take them. We will break the elements of the plan down. In demographics I recommend we do a 30 year look. We had two visioning sessions. There were visioning problems, but solution was the biggest problem. Was there sufficient input? Was there sufficient sample size to get the information? Is there a need to have visioning sessions?

Milasich: I think we need to do a re-vision on what exists today and what is the future.

Taylor: We need input and need to find a way to improve the input and our response rate.

Schwing: We should go to the people and target various groups, seek their input, ask them to fill out a questionnaire and give their opinion.

Motion by Schwing, second by Miller to revise and amend the existing Community Master Plan as necessary to create a new Community Master Plan, incorporating open visioning and other input solicitation. Motion carried.

Trout asked the commissioners to review the Community Master Plan for the next meeting and make notes on issues that need to be updated, revised, added and / or deleted in the revised plan.

Taylor asked the planners to think about : "What is the sense of place in Onekama? Why did you pick Onekama to live here?"

ADJOURN: 8:40 p.m.

Submitted by

Mary Lou Millard,

Recording Secretary

Jim Trout, Chairman

Charlotte Straight, Secretary