

ALAMO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes January 4, 2011

A Regular Meeting of the Alamo Township Planning Commission was held Tuesday, January 4, 2011

Chairman Goyings called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Ron Feninger, Helen Goyings, Al Sweitzer, David Veenstra, and Paula Baker. Absent Belden Smith.

Also present: Deputy Supervisor Barbara Fisher.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Gary Howe – Midget Track moved to #V.

#VI – added – Presentation from Deputy Supervisor Fisher.

Minutes of the previous meeting held December 7, 2010 were approved on motion by Member Baker, seconded by Member Goyings. CARRIED.

Member Feninger moved to excuse Member Smith, seconded by Member Sweitzer. CARRIED.

The newest member of the Planning Commission, Bruce LaBrie, will be joining the commission in February.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairman opened the floor for nominations for Officers. Member Baker moved to re-elect Goyings as Chairman, seconded by Member Feninger. CARRIED. Member Goyings moved to elect Baker as Vice Chairman, seconded by Member Sweitzer. CARRIED. The election of a Secretary was tabled until later in the meeting. Vice Chair Baker will take minutes for this meeting.

GARY HOWE – MIDGET TRACK

Mr. Howe was present to explain the Sprint (Midget) Car Track he is constructing at his establishment – Kalamazoo Speedway. He has submitted a new site plan of the facility with the appropriate changes needed to include the track. This site plan has been reviewed and approved. Fire Chief Terry **Kizer** was present and explained the emergency access to the facility, noting that there is adequate access. Member Sweitzer informed Mr. Howe that, according to the Township's Sign Ordinance, signs not pertaining to goods sold on the premises cannot be visible from the road. Mr. Howe did not see a problem with this issue. Member Goyings moved that the Planning Commission approve the site plan for the addition of a Quarter Midget Track at Kalamazoo Speedway, including new restrooms, seconded by Member Veenstra. ROLL CALL VOTE – Member Sweitzer – Yes; Member Goyings – Yes; Member Veenstra – Yes; Member Feninger – Yes; Member Baker – Yes. CARRIED.

PRESENTATION FROM DEPUTY SUPERVISOR FISHER

Deputy Supervisor Fisher presented several items to the Planning Commission which have been previously discussed regarding errors/omissions/mistakes in the Zoning Ordinance. It is the intention of the Planning Commission to submit these items to the Township Attorney for inclusion in a “clean up” ordinance. The Planning Commission agreed unanimously to ask Deputy Supervisor Fisher to work with the Township Attorney to develop an ordinance to correct these items. Several items were removed as they will require more detailed research from the Planning Commission. Those items removed include, but are not limited to, commercial facades, the sign ordinance, C-1 & C-2 switch, residential business activity in R-3 & R-4, agricultural activity in C-1, C-2 & R-3, and the definition of “tent”.

2011 GOALS

Chairman Goyings reviewed the goals set in 2010 and the accomplishment made with them. She stated that a goal from 2010 needs to be carried into 2011 – the goal of the Planning Commission needing to look forward to visionary. Goals for 2011 include:

- Review the Sign Ordinance

- Review the zoning and re-zoning of the Commercial and Industrial districts

- Review/add language to the Zoning Ordinance regarding Commercial Facades

- Review the C-1 and C-2 districts in the Zoning Ordinance regarding the fact that they appear to be switched.

- Review the Standards for Special Exemption Use Permits

SIGN ORDINANCE

Chairman Goyings stated, and the Planning Commission agreed, that the Sign Ordinance definitely needs reviewing. This will be a major priority for 2011.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Chairman Goyings stated that the current Zoning Committee will remain in place. Members of this committee include Goyings, Veenstra, and Baker as Chair.

Chairman Goyings appointed a new committee to begin review of the Sign Ordinance. Members of this committee include Sweitzer, LaBrie, and Feninger as Chair.

Chairman Goyings stated that the Commercial Zoning Committee would be on hold for the time being.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Deputy Supervisor Fisher stated some thoughts on the future façade regulations.

ELECTION OF SECRETARY

Member Feninger moved to elect Member Veenstra as Secretary, seconded by Member Goyings. CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned on motion by Member Goyings, seconded by Member Feninger. CARRIED
8:58p.m.

Paula Baker
Vice Chairman