

***Leoni Township Office***  
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**PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES**

**February 1, 2017**

The Leoni Township Planning Commission held a meeting Wednesday, February 1, 2017,  
@ 6 p.m. 913 Fifth Street, Leoni Township Meeting Hall, Michigan Center, Michigan

Members Present: J. Spencer, L. Maurer, J. Kruse, J. Southworth, K. Cole, V. Beckwith & B. Lester

Members absent: 0

Persons in attendance: 11

Purpose of Planning Commission read by Spencer

Motion by Southworth, supported by Lester, to approve of the agenda as presented.

**Motion carried by voice vote.**

Motion by Cole, supported by Kruse, to approve the minutes of January 18, 2017.

Correction by Cole, Item K, should have read 'number of plants' instead of dollar amount.

**Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Discussion: Old Business**

1) Medical Marijuana

- A) Poor showings at past MM hearings.
- B) Put a comment or suggestion box in the township office for residents to voice opinions, for or against MM.
- C) A Notice will be mailed along with the assessments.
- D) Put in industrial district. Concern re: older people afraid to go into industrial districts
- E) Wait until after the MTA Conference
- F) Have a Public Hearing at May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting

2) Canoe/Kayak Launch

- A) There will be 6 launches along the Grand River
- B) DNR grant
- C) Clean-up – G.R.E.A.T.
- D) ADA compliant
- E) Does not want another Fifth Street situation
- F) DLZ to write grant
- G) Locking canoe rack so canoers/kayakers can patronize local businesses
- H) Next watershed committee meeting on February 17<sup>th</sup>, on the 17<sup>th</sup> floor of the Tower Building

**Discussion: New Business**

- 1) Blight
  - A) Combined ordinance for commercial & residential
  - B) Political & garage sale signs, etc. must be removed within a specified time
  - C) Appoint a hearing officer
  - D) Ordinance on the books – need to revamp and implement
  - E) Packet for new businesses w/ registration form, etc.
  - F) One-time \$50 registration fee

**Public Comment: Open at 7:05pm.**

Ken Stevens: Thanks for moving Public Comment to the end and for reducing time limit to 3 minutes.

Keith VanPoperin: Public comments time limits cannot be reduced under the Open Meetings Act. When was the open meeting for this?

Mike Maillard: Businesses close, the buildings become unattractive. We need to occupy these buildings. Enforcement of building permits (open ended?). Properties that have been under construction or remodel for years. Car lots should have permanent pavement, not gravel, and cannot infringe upon County property lines. Number of cars should be limited, and no cars in disrepair (running, no broken or cracked windows, etc). Must keep properties up, help make the township more attractive to bring others into the community. Political and garage sale signs should have a set time limit to be removed. All businesses that have hazardous materials should be licensed by the state and the township should be informed of what those materials are. Fire fighters should have Hazmat training.

Lori Bacon: The lot next to her home on Goose Lake has campers instead of a home. Tow campers, old garage, old shed, chassis of a mobile home. No septic or well. Has never seen anyone empty the holding tank. Hear them tell the kids to go in the lake to go the bathroom.

Denise Barber: Would like the agendas to be posted on the website.

Mike Maillard: Re: canoe/kayak landing, hours of operation, lighting, insurance, liability?  
MM nurturing predators and encourage them to come to the area. Surveillance?

**Public Comment: Closed at 7:37pm.**

**Board Discussion:** We have four (4) board members (Maurer, Kruse, Southworth, & Beckwith) that wish to attend the Site Plan Workshop on March 8<sup>th</sup>, at Napoleon Township Hall.

Motion made by Maurer, supported by Cole, to move the meeting time for the Planning Commission from 6:00 to 6:30pm.

**Roll Call Vote: 7 ayes, 0 nays**  
**Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned by Spencer at 7:46pm.

Next meeting: February 15, 2017

Dorothy Dickinson, Secretary

