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**PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES**

**March 15, 2017**

The Leoni Township Planning Commission held a meeting Wednesday, March 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, V. Beckwith & B. Lester

Members absent: K. Cole

Persons in attendance: 16

**Public Comment: Open at 6:33pm.**

James Cannon – has met with Howard regarding his farm at 5067 Page Avenue, current charges against him. Asked if the Planning Commission can recommend any way to help his keep his farm intact. States he has owned and run the farm since May of 1964. Has a meeting with Mr. Linnabary and Mr. Roe next week.

**Public Comment: Closed at 6:37pm.**

Purpose of Planning Commission read by Spencer.

Motion by Beckwith, supported by Maurer, to approve of the agenda as presented.

**Motion carried by voice vote.**

Motion by Kruse, supported by Spencer, to approve the minutes of March 1, 2017.

**Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Public Hearing:**

**Roy Simpkins/Jeff Wyers, 119 Grand Street**

**Mr. Simpkins stated he would like to rezone in order to live in and run a daycare business out of the home. States he cannot get a loan with it being zoned business.**

**Mr. Wyers is the current owner and is ok with the rezone.**

**Mrs. Southworth spoke with Mr. Bauman at Jackson County Region 2. They don't like spot zoning. She also sited the Master Plan as concurring with Region 2.**

**Mr. Spencer went on record as being for mixed use zoning and doesn't see a problem with rezoning; recommends R-4.**

**Motion by Spencer, supported by Beckwith, to approve rezoning 119 Grand Street.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Spencer – aye**  
**Lester – aye**  
**Kruse – aye**  
**Beckwith – nay**  
**Maurer – nay**  
**Southworth – nay**

**Tie Vote. Motion Denied.**

**New Business: None**

- 1) Grant Bauman, from the Region 2 Planning Commission, spoke about the Canoe/Kayak Launch Project
  - A) Three proposed water trails
    1. Upper Grand River – Northern Hillsdale to Eaton Rapids
    2. Portage – Waterloo, east to Upper Grand River
    3. Chain of Lakes – Little Wolf Lake County Park, east to Leoni Township Park
  - B) Twenty-four (24) sites along the Grand River
  - C) Parks & Rec 5-year Plan Amendment to include East & West launches
    1. Need a Master Site Plan for the Park, to include two (2) launch sites
    2. Formal crosswalk on Fifth Street, possible at Orchard Street
    3. Small piece in center of triangle in the Park owned by someone other than the township
    4. Locks & store added to the Park
  - D) Hire a landscape architect
  - E) Fund raisers
  - F) Available grant funds
    - 1) DNR Trust Fund – Maximum \$300,000 for development and maximum \$300,000 in acquisition funds, each to be matched by 25% (\$75,000) by the township
  - G) Kiosks – signage – porta pottys along the river.

**Discussion: Old Business**

- 1) Blight
  - a. Appoint a Public Action Committee
  - b. Appoint a Hearing Officer (appointment by Supervisor, approved by Board of Trustees)
  - c. Ride-along with Jackson City Inspectors
  - d. Mr. Linnabary to ride with Officer Jacobson 1-2 days a week
  - e. Blight ordinance encompasses 8 others

**Public Comment: Open at 7:50 pm.**

Keith VanPoperin – website for boat launch. 26x16 to be ADA compliant

Neeta Delaney – Pure Michigan campaign promo. Fund raising – the more grant-seekers work together, the more likely to happen. Blight – likes the idea of a Public Action Committee. When

we have a speaker, we should be set up for Powerpoint, so that the audience has a reference point, rather than the Board only receiving maps, information.

**Public Comment: Closed at 7:55 pm.**

**Discussion:** 1) Garage Sale Ordinance – voted on 11/2/2016 to clean up, go back to later  
2) Chicken Ordinance – Have Michele format or assign someone to format

Adjournment: 7:30 pm.

Dorothy Dickinson, secretary

**Next meeting: March 15, 2017**