

Garden Township Planning and Zoning Commission

Meeting Minutes

April 11th, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Frank.

The Pledge of Allegiance recited by all present

Roll call was taken:

Frank Williams, Jodi Williams, Tom Lang, Rosemarie Devora, Jenna Silkworth, and Joe Maki present

No members absent

Changes or additions to the agenda were called for. No changes were made.

A motion to approve the current agenda was made by Jenna and seconded by Frank.

The motion was passed by unanimous verbal acceptance.

February 8th minutes were reviewed and noted that Joe Maki's name was spelled incorrectly one time and needed to be corrected. Members absent from the reviewed meeting also need to be added. With correction, a motion was made to approve the minutes by Jenna and seconded by Jodi. Motion passed by unanimous verbal acceptance.

The March 14, 2024, minutes were reviewed. Upon review, one typographical error was found that needed correction. A motion to approve the minutes, with correction, was made by Jenna and seconded by Jodi. The motion passed by unanimous verbal acceptance.

Old business

1. Master Plan update by Joe Maki

- a. Joe stated that he has contacted several contractors regarding assistance with formulating a Master Plan for Garden Township including Giffels,

Webster, Becket & Raeder, CIB Planning, North of 45, OHM which is the only firm that has followed up on the request for a bid, CUPPAD. Joe suggested that any collaboration should be accomplished via Zoom Meeting to avoid travel costs. He is currently waiting for a proposal from OHM. He believes that he will have a proposal by next month from OHM and in conjunction with CUPPAD.

b. The Master Plan surveys that were sent out to the residents of Garden Township have been returned, and results shall be used when preparing the Master Plan proposal.

i. Joe will be acting in an advisory capacity only and should have a starting proposal to bring to the group for discussion soon to coincide with the results of the survey.

ii. Jenna noted that because the Township pays annual dues to CUPPAD, CUPPAD provides a certain number of hours free of charge every year, which should be utilized to assist with the plan.

Solar and report

1. Joe states that he has been to several seminars concerning the Michigan Solar Initiative and the referendum regarding the initiative including MSU. Per the advice of the legal counsel, he suggests waiting for the referendum results to be in before pursuing anything with Commercial Solar planning.
2. Joe Maki presented the new digital zoning map. Parcels are overlaid on the digital map. It was based on GIS, and the Planning Commission will have access to it when it is completed.
3. Next month Joe will begin reviewing the current zoning of parcels in Garden Township, including waterfront parcels to ensure they are properly zoned. He will begin at the border of Alger County. There are 8 regions/pages to the Township's zoning map, he plans to review one region/page per month until completed. There
4. Joe Maki left the meeting after his report at 7:24

Master Plan Survey

1. Over 100 surveys regarding the Garden Township Master Plan were returned by the deadline. The National Honor Society students will review and place the results on a spreadsheet. Jodi and /or Jenna will transport the surveys to the Bay de Noc School for them to begin tallying.

Public Comments

1. No public comments

A motion to adjourn was voiced by Jenna and seconded by Jodi. Motion passed by unanimous verbal agreement.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rose M", is located in the lower-left quadrant of the page.