

CITY OF MANISTEE PLANNING COMMISSION

70 Maple Street
Manistee, MI 49660

MEETING MINUTES

March 7, 2013

A meeting of the Manistee City Planning Commission was held on Thursday, March 7, 2013 at 7 pm in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 70 Maple Street, Manistee, Michigan.

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Chair Yoder

Roll Call:

Members Present: Maureen Barry (7:06 pm), Bill Dean, Ray Fortier, Marlene McBride, Mark Wittlief, Roger Yoder

Members Absent: David Crockett (excused)

Others: Jon R. Rose (Community Development Director), Denise Blakeslee (Planning & Zoning) and others

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Ray Fortier, seconded by Mark Wittlief that the agenda be approved as prepared.

With a Roll Call vote this motion passed 5 to 0.

Yes: Dean, Fortier, McBride, Wittlief, Yoder

No: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Ray Fortier, seconded by Marlene McBride that the minutes of the February 7, 2013 Planning Commission Meeting be approved as prepared.

With a Roll Call vote this motion passed 5 to 0.

Yes: Dean, Fortier, McBride, Wittlief, Yoder

No: None

PUBLIC HEARING

None

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA RELATED ITEMS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

STAFF/SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Denise Blakeslee, Planning & Zoning – a workshop is being scheduled for either April or May that can be used for Citizen Planner Certification Credits.

The Planning Commission will hold a Worksession on March 21, 2013

The next regular meeting of the Planning Commission will be held on Thursday, April 4, 2013

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mark Wittlief, seconded by Bill Dean that the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm

Worksession - Notes

At the January 19, 2013 Worksession the Planning Commission directed staff to schedule a Worksession to take place after every regularly scheduled meeting to continue working on various items that will be used for updating the Master Plan. Worksessions are scheduled to allow the Planning Commission the opportunity to discuss in a less formal manner than a regular meeting. No motions can be made during a Worksession.

Commissioner Barry entered the meeting 7:06 pm

Questionnaire Results - Commissioners were sent a copy of the list of answers to the question “If you were to drive through Manistee or fly over in a hot air balloon in ten years what would you see?” They ranked the top five follows:

Ranked/Score	Top Responses
#1 / 16	Fully occupied downtown
#2 / 13	More jobs/commercial & Industrial facilities
#3 / 9	Removal & Reroute of train tracks to spur commercial development
#4 / 8 (tied)	Vastly developed downtown and new streetscape, parks and fountains
#4 / 8 (tied)	Enlarged Hospital with more than 28 beds and specialists and more medical treatments not have to go out of town.

Complete list	
8	Enlarged Hospital with more than 28 beds and specialists and more medical treatments not have to go out of town.
6	A local hospital providing a fully trained staff expert in current procedures and the use of contemporary instrumentation in the Trauma Center. Local transportation and trained and equipped staff to transport required patients to a higher level facility (Munson/Spectrum).
5	A fully functional and integrated community and services involving the City of Manistee, local and adjacent communities and the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians.
1	Possible by-pass wooded area (<i>Driving</i>)
8	Vastly developed downtown and new streetscape, parks and fountains
16	Fully occupied downtown
13	More jobs/commercial & Industrial facilities
0	High tech industry/filling our industrial parks
1	One large body of blue water connected by a river to smaller body, fed by two rivers very picturesque, Clean white (sandy) beaches (<i>Flying</i>)
5	An expanded West Shore Community College offering vocational courses, required to meet all needs of the Manistee Area. These programs will result in two year vocational degrees. Also four year programs in key educational (teaching) and technical medial areas (radiology) and other required programs. This will allow many local students to remain at home cutting costs for the student as well as the entire educational process.
0	Change Industrial area on Washington Street to park and condo/housing.
2	Relocate trains off highway and add passenger travel by train.
3	Continued integration of City services (eg like the police, fire, EMS) to cut costs by eliminating duplicate overhead, managerial and administrative costs.
0	It is a site to behold the green woods and rivers very special.
3	Start/complete Peninsula Project
2	Lake Michigan fully utilized for recreation.
2	Restaurants, theatre, and nighttime activities.
9	Removal & Reroute of train tracks to spur commercial development
0	No smoke stacks – maybe a little more development on Manistee Lake
0	World class beaches and water recreation facilities
3	Enlarged airport promoting more tourist and Industry by air
1	Large stores more employment and tourists to our town
0	Local business and industry fully adhering to local requirements/ordinances
0	City Annex property to grow city boundaries.

0	City wide Wi-Fi
2	A Meijer on the outskirts

Goals - The Commission began discussing Goals for the Master Plan. Ideas for Goals included:

- Downtown/Historic District
- Hospitals/Schools/Parks/Recreation
- Technology/Green Infrastructure/Preserving the Environment
- Commercial/Industry/Jobs/Relocate Rail Road
- Neighborhood preservation

Master Plan - At the March 5, 2013 City Council Meeting Council approved the City of Manistee entering into the Lakes to Land Regional Initiative. This will assist in the will assist with the public involvement and facilitate public input as well as assist in the plan development.

Discussed the need to have public input for the plan development, each member of the Commission was asked to list the names and contact information for members of the community they feel should be invited to participate in the public input for the master plan.

Worksession Adjourned at 8:07 pm

MANISTEE PLANNING COMMISSION

Denise J. Blakeslee, Recording Secretary