

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN & CITY OF BELLEVILLE
JOINT PLANNING COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 29, 2017
MINUTES**

Director Akers called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

City of Belleville Planning Commission

Present: Jones, Juriga, Priest, Hawkins, Kurczewski, Bates, Renaud, Wagner and Hasen.

Excused: None.

Staff: Director Rutherford.

Van Buren Township Planning Commission

Present: Kelley, Atchinson, Budd, Boynton, Jahr, Franzoi and Thompson.

Excused: None.

Staff: Director Akers and Secretary Harman.

Planning Representatives: McKenna Associate, Patrick Sloan and Fishbeck Associate, David Potter.

Audience: Fourteen (14).

APPOINTMENT OF A CHAIRPERSON:

Motion Juriga, Thompson second to nominate Commissioner Jones as Chairperson. Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion Boynton, Bates second to approve the agenda of November 29, 2017 as presented.

Motion Carried.

Supervisor McNamara thanked both Commissions for their attendance and introduced the Van Buren Township Trustees present: Sherry Frazier, Kevin Martin, Reggie Miller and Paul White.

Mayor Conley thanked the Commissions for their willingness to work together and introduced City Council members present: Thomas Fielder, Jack Loria, Tom Smith and Jesse Marcotte.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

ITEM # 1 MASTER PLAN DISCUSSION

Director Akers provided a brief presentation of potential master plan topics for open discussion by the Commissioners. Director Akers introduced staff members and planning representatives present for the meeting. The City of Belleville and Van Buren Township Planning Commissioners introduced themselves and each Commission provided an update on the status of their master plan review.

A. SUMPTER ROAD CORRIDOR SOUTH OF HULL ROAD:

Commissioners discussed zoning along the Sumpter Road corridor and the possible effects of rezoning some agricultural land to commercial, a market or grocery store on the south side, changing the utilities along the corridor for future development and turning agriculturally zoned properties into commercially zoned properties.

B. SUMPTER ROAD BETWEEN RAILROAD TRACKS AND HULL ROAD:

Commissioners discussed future plans for the city, creating guidelines to encourage growth, splitting commercial/residential properties and possible locations for: temporary housing, a retirement community, medical office, shops and grocery store for residents. Commissioners also discussed the possibility of using CDBG funds to create sidewalks to the downtown area and working together to research further ideas to enhance connectivity to the downtown area.

C. BELLEVILLE ROAD CORRIDOR IMPACT ON MAIN STREET:

Commissioners discussed how to draw business into the main street area from potential development in the corridors to the south, the traffic volume going through the downtown area and the desire for further strategic development discussion.

D. OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT DOWNTOWN BELLEVILLE:

Commissioners discussed addressing blight and parking concerns, possibly a new park/community building, adding more walkable amenities to the downtown area and approaching the whole stretch as the Main Street corridor not just the downtown area.

E. RESIDENTIAL CORRIDORS:

Commissioners discussing the impact zoning changes, traffic and growth to residential areas.

F. BELLEVILLE LAKE:

Commissioners discussed the need for more lake access for recreational activities, a lakescape project, creating design standards for the shoreline, adding amenities to the docks at Horizon Park, enhancing the boat slips to allow larger boat access and the possibility of the new park/community building to include fishing pier/boat docking access. The Commissioners also discussed the potential impacts of the lake draw down, addressing the eroding shoreline areas and the desire for another commercial development lakeside and the possibility of bringing back the River Boat on the lake.

G. IRON BELLE TRAIL

Commissioners discussed connectivity and the communities working together on the Iron Belle Trail link, the trail is proposed to run along Huron River Drive and connect to Washtenaw County to the west and the Lower Huron Metropark to the south.

H. WAYS THE TWO COMMUNITIES CAN WORK TOGETHER IN THE FUTURE:

Commissioners discussed their desire to revisit joint Commission meetings: moving forward possibly annually or bi-annually, including Sumpter Township at future meetings, setting up points of contact for each community and keeping neighboring communities in consideration with decisions regarding master plan.

City of Belleville Planning Commissioners, Van Buren Township Planning Commissioners, Supervisor McNamara and Mayor Conley thanked everyone for their attendance, the opportunity to meet and Belleville High School for the use of their facility. The Commissioners, Board members and Council members desire to work together, keep communication open and plan future meetings.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion Juriga, Boynton second to adjourn at 9:37 p.m. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Harman
Recording Secretary