

**Yates Township Planning Commission Special Meeting
Final – Minutes for September 25, 2020**

Meeting called to order at 4:00 by Chairperson Blair Evans

The Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Chairperson Blair Evans-P; Commissioner Chris Grier-P; Yates Township Board Representative and Ex-Officio Charles Mite Atkins-P; Commissioner Iris Hill-P; Commissioner Janie Durban-A; Commissioner Evelyn Walker-A; Commissioner Julia Carr-A; Quorum Established

Chair Evans reminded the constituents about electronic meeting protocols in regard to the Open Meetings Act & Executive Orders.

Reading and Approval of the Minutes:

The reading and approval of the minutes (several months) were tabled due to the transfer of secretary duties.

Discussion for issues not on the Agenda for Planning Commissioners- There are none.

Old Business:

Chairperson Evans said the meeting was primarily called to cover the old business from last meeting including changes in the Planning and Zoning Commission (PC) officers. Since the last meeting, our Commissioner Iris Hill resigned as Secretary but not from the PC.

Since the last meeting Micah Franklin is no longer on the board in two ways. The Yates Township Board (YTB) removed him for lack of attendance which is nonfeasance and at the same time, he had a letter of resignation that was on its way and received the next day.

The township board appointed a new member, Chris Grier who was sworn in on September 18, 2020. The resignation of the secretary does not require an acceptance but we acknowledge it. Chairperson Evans opened nominations for Secretary

A motion was made to nominate Chris Grier for secretary by YTBR&EO Atkins seconded by Commissioner Hill. Chairperson Evans said it had been a tradition for the PC to voice a nomination three times. Although he could not find this recorded in Yates Township or Planning & Zoning Commission by-laws nor Roberts Rules of Order, YTBR&EO Atkins recited the nomination three times.

Hearing no other nominations, Chairperson Evans brought the nominations to a close.

The election, as in all actions taken by the PC in a virtual meeting, will be taken by roll call. Yates Township Board Representative and Ex-Officio Charles Mite Atkins-Y; Commissioner Iris Hill-Y; Commissioner Chris Grier-Y; Chairperson Blair Evans-Y
Motion passed by unanimous vote.

New business

PC by-laws indicate that we have 5 officers : “Chairperson”, “Vice-Chairperson”, and “Secretary” which we select by election. Additionally it includes a “Township Board Representative” and a Zoning Board of Appeals representative. Under MPEA (125.3815(5)) the Township appoints 1 ex-officio member.

It has been the practice that the Yates Township Ex-officio member appointed to the PC was also the representative from the PC to the board. In an effort to formalize this practice,

A motion was made by Commissioner Grier and seconded by Commissioner Hill that whoever is appointed by the YTB to the Ex-officio member role on the PC, that person shall act as the YTB representative as indicated in the PC by-laws. A roll call vote followed: Commissioner Chris Grier-Y; YTBR&EO Charles Mite Atkins-Y; Commissioner Iris Hill-Y; Chairperson Blair Evans-Y Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Additionally, PC by-laws indicates “ZBA Representative” MP 125.3601(4) “In a county or township, 1 of the regular members of the zoning board of appeals shall be a member of the zoning commission, or of the planning commission if the planning commission is functioning as the zoning commission.”

Further, Yates township Code of Ordinances (in the current published set) section 154.085 BOARD OF APPEALS (A)(1) “The first member shall be the Chairperson of the Planning Commission”

It has been the practice that the PC Chairperson is also the ZBA representative. In an effort to formalize this practice,

A motion was made by YTBR&EO Atkins and seconded by Commissioner Hill that the Chairperson of the planning commission, who is on the ZBA, would be the ZBA representative as referenced in the PC by laws.

A roll call vote followed: YTBR&EO Charles Mite Atkins-Y; Commissioner Chris Grier-Y; Commissioner Iris Hill-Y; Chairperson Blair Evans-Y Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Public Comments: (3 minute maximum)

Chief Mahji Lloyd Hogan Sr. El representing the LINA government (League of Indian Nations) How do someone submit a proposal to each member of PC via email? We would like to obtain a building in Idlewild to represent ourselves and our heritage and culture and revitalize that culture. We would like to partner with the planning commission.

Chairperson Evans reminded attendees the public comment sections is not a question and answer session overall. Since the information is helpful, after all comments, Chairperson Evans will give further information.

There were no further comments.

Chairperson Evans shared that Yates Township periodically purchases land, holds land back from tax auction, assigns land to projects, or sells lands. YT Supervisor asked the PC to

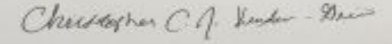
review requests that people had to purchase land. This was not to make a recommendation for a decision, but to give an analysis to the township board relative to the Master Plan, relative to Zoning, as to whether that piece of land fills a strategic purpose within Yates Township according to our zoning use land map. There will also be public discussion of these items during a regular scheduled meeting.

The optimal way to submit an idea or request to utilize township property (there have been two requests that have already been received) is to send an email to planning@idlewild-mi.org We hope that will soon be a domain under Yates township. Additionally, if you have a general request for the PC, you may send it to the above email.

Adjournment

Moved by Commissioner Grier; seconded by YTBR& EO Charles Mite Atkins
A roll call vote followed: Commissioner Chris Grier-Y; YTBR&EO Charles Atkins-Y;
Commissioner Iris Hill Y; Chairperson Blair Evans-Y

Meeting adjourned at 4:37pm

Approved January 14, 2021,  Planning Commission secretary.

6437 S. Nelson Road, Idlewild, MI 49642
planning@idlewild-mi.org