

Yates Township Planning Commission Special Meeting Final Minutes for December 10, 2020

Meeting called to order at 5:07pm by Chairperson Blair Evans

The Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Roll Call – Commissioner Iris Hill-Present Idlewild MI; Commissioner Julia Carr-Present Yates Township MI; Commissioner Evelyn Walker-Present Yates Township Michigan; Commissioner Janie Durban Yates Township, MI; Yates Township Board Representative and Ex-officio Charles “Mite” Atkins Idlewild Michigan; Commissioner Chris Grier-Present Holland Michigan; Chairperson Blair Evans Present Idlewild Michigan, Yates Township. Quorum established.

Chair Evans requested 3 times notification if there was a change in the Ex-officio Member. He received no response. As minutes were taken, Commissioner/Ex-Officio Atkins vote will be provisional in case there is an issue.

Chair Evans reminded the constituents about electronic meeting protocols.

Reading and Approval of the Minutes:

November 19, 2020 meeting read

Commissioner Atkins made the motion and Commissioner Hill seconded to accept the November 19, 2020 minutes as read.

General discussion on November 19, 2020 corrected minutes.

Commissioner Walker clarified her motion to receive the corrected November 10, 2019 minutes with the corrections re-read. Commissioner Carr also spoke to her motion to receive the corrected October 14, 2019 minutes with the corrections re-read. They both would like the corrections made to minutes, especially during our time apart, to be read, instead of the full minutes being re-read.

The entire corrected minutes for both November 10, 2019 and October 14, 2019 were read.

Corrections for the read minutes are as follows:

Commissioner Atkins should be changed to Ex-officio & Township Representative Atkins.

A roll call vote ensued. Commissioner Hill, Commissioner Carr, Commissioner Walker, Commissioner Durban, Yates Township Representative & Ex-officio Atkins, Commissioner Grier, Chair Evans-There was a roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Blair Evans suggested Secretary Grier reach out to each of the commissioners that they have a mechanism to the written version of the documents coming up to the meetings. There were three additional discussion items for issues not on the Agenda

1. To discuss Secretary expenses and compensation for the secretary.
2. Marijuana project sight plan
3. Payments & compensation to Commissioner Hill Sept & Oct 2019... she was not an official commissioner

Review & approve backlog of the minutes

Chair Evans tabled the further review and approval of the rest of the minutes until we have had a chance to get the latest updates. (July 9, 2020 to October 15, 2020)

Old Business:

8B- Impact of MDHHS order of our planned activities:

The organization of physical files is on hold due to no access to physical files & we can meet together to do that. This is on indefinite hold.

Training sessions on zoom & digital repository should be a high priority & we should work on it.

There are three levels of Technology training:

1. One on one zoom training
2. Group zoom practice; accessing things on their screen
3. Group tutorial on digital repository

Commissioner Grier will, as best he can, help facilitate these training sessions. Chair Evens said, four people are on the call who can also help facilitate tech training. Commissioner Grier asked the commissioners to share their technology capacity. Only one commissioner does not have a computer nor internet.

Communication from the PC to the Yates Township Board.

Interaction to/from township government

1. Access to PC files and records. Given the new locks on doors in township offices, we need a way to access physical files & archives.

2. The Zoning Board of Appeals meeting to interpret 1972 camping language happened. The day after the meeting a public notice in the Lake County Star from 1999 with a newer camping ordinance. This needs clarification to determine if there was a text of the adopted 1999 ordinance.

General discussion of the annual work plan ensued.

Item 9 was split into two parts PC & Zoning Ordinances

General Discussion of Annual Work Plan

We went through the Annual Work Plan items again in full with few updates and prioritization.

Motioned by Commissioner Hill and seconded by Commissioner Grier to officially begin the 5yr review of the Master Plan today

Discussion- none

Roll call vote: Commissioner Hill, Commissioner Carr-No response-left meeting, Commissioner Walker-Y, Yates Township Representative & Ex-officio Atkins-Y, Commissioner Durban-Y, Commissioner Grier-Y, Commissioner Chair Evans- Y- Motion passed.

Training for planning commissioners

Robust discussion was held and questions asked about the logistics & types of training.

It was moved by Commissioner Hill and seconded by Commissioner Grier that we adopt Citizen Planner training as a base line.

Discussion-None

Hill- Y, Carr- NR, Walker-N, Durban-N; Ex-Officio Atkins-pass, Grier-Y Chair- Evans-Y motion failed

Carr- rejoined the meeting.

Some commissioners shared their training for the commission.

Walker-MTA class. Planning and Zoning Decision Making; Township Planning....

The training discussion was tabled, Commissioners were encouraged to research options for training including the Citizens planner, MTA, MPA and other governmental planning training.

Public Comments (3 minute maximum):

1. Cynthia- so helpful if minutes and docs were available on the yates township website. IT would save township, property owners and commissioners time
2. Debra Taylor-listening to the meeting. Interested in keeping up with the activities of PC & YTB; will the tax bills come from Lake County.
3. Dee Taylor- Parma MI, marijuana project. Who is in charge of that? I hope they have the best intentions.
4. EJ Lindsey- If I was an investor or developer and wanted to make a quick move. Is there a master plan, mini plan available.
5. Joel Herington- We hear a lot of research from you, when do the other commissioners share their thoughts.
6. Monica's Iphone- New property owner in Idlewild. Is MLK property still available. She was told to Inform the Township board
7. Mrs. Evans- owner of HITS. Submit a proposal to PC. I am interested in entertaining property. Wants township properties. Idlewild Public library on Baldwin Road.
8. Nicolena- Thank Evans and Grier for time and energy for past meetings. Those minutes have occurred when you were not on the committee. Patience is appreciated. Concerned, progress is being hindered so badly, if they can't serve because they don't have email They are not serving the people of Yates Township. If you have not received the meeting items, you should communicate. Chair Evans referenced the Township building being locked and that decision was made by the township supervisor. Earlier a commissioner objected to this and said it was false. I was on the call and that is that is in fact, what Supervisor Burns said she did unilaterally.
9. Susan M-give my regards to Mr. Grier and family prayers for your mother. Planning Township business started far behind, prior to the new members joining. I want to recognize Covid is very relevant as are personal emergencies, however the taxpayers are in need of answers and actions for many things that affect their property. In 2020 there are many ways to proceed with business and modern technology. I agree with Ms. Hill these items can not continue to be tabled. In regard to training, even as volunteers, your constituents deserve professional, qualified and knowledgeable representation and if you are not willing or try or have access to technology are you really serving the best interest of the taxpayers.

Adjournment

Moved by Commissioner Hill; seconded by Commissioner Grier

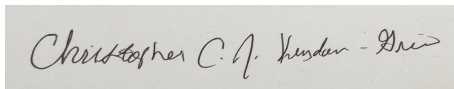
A roll call vote was taken and Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Iris Hill-Y; Commissioner Julia Carr-NR; Commissioner Evelyn Walker-Y;

Commissioner Janie Durban-Y; Yates Township Board Representative and Ex-officio Charles "Mite" Atkins-Y; Commissioner Chris Grier-Y; Chairperson Blair Evans-Y.

Meeting adjourned 7:48pm

Approved January 14, 2021



, Planning Commission Secretary