

**Laketon Township Planning Commission**  
**July 10, 2019 Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes – APPROVED 8/14/2019**

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Don Nellis called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 pm.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**ROLL CALL:**

- Present: Don Nellis, DJ Hilson, Cindy Zaagman, June Earhart and Eric Anderson
- Absent w/notice: Paul Hoppa and Dave Mieras
- Also present: Zoning Administrator Theresa Maner, Recording Secretary Veronica West one area resident.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** DJ Hilson moved to approve the agenda as presented. June Earhart supported the motion. The motion carried by voice vote.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** DJ Hilson moved to approve the minutes as presented for May 8, 2019. June Earhart supported the motion. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:**                      **NONE**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Planning & Zoning News – May & June issues distributed. Zoning Administrator Theresa Maner pointed out a couple of topics of interest in these issues, including “round-a-bouts”.
- MTA – Hot Topics in Planning and Zoning – educational opportunities.
- Michigan Coastal Communities Planning for Resiliency – ZA Theresa Maner attended this free conference; found many professional planners noted how well known Laketon Township is for it’s ordinances regarding the lakeshore and some wanted to come in and meet with her and Supervisor Kim Arter later in the year to discuss them; discussed topics she learned about including – recommendations for incorporating Coastal Mgmt Policies in the Master Plan, setbacks from the ordinary high water mark vs using 30 yr or 50 yr high water marks, FEMAVE programs for “wave action zones” where homes would be built on “stilts” like those in places like the North Carolina coastal areas.
- County Recreation Plan – ZA Theresa Maner learned that the County is working on it’s recreation plan update and is planning to attend one of their public input sessions.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Park & Rec Plan Open House Summary of Public Comments – Not yet compiled, no discussion at this time, will revisit this topic next month.
- Park & Rec Plan - Discussion covered the new/updated to current non-motorized trail map, noticing it will be incorporated into the new document as a full page attachment, as will the Capital Improvements Plan (the edited portions including only the relevant park and rec items). The draft plan is nearly complete; save for the public comments from the open house and some new pictures. ZA Theresa Maner noted that Supervisor Kim Arter has requested that color pictures be used from the fall when the leaves are turning color; discussion covered the timeline of getting this document completed for submittal to the Michigan DNR by Feb. 1, 2020 which would probably prohibit many new pics if we have to wait until fall to take them. Eric Anderson noted he has no issue with using the existing photos so long as they are accurate and are an up to date depiction of the amenities shown. Don Nellis distributed a summary of the DNR guidelines on the process to adopt a park and rec plan and talked out putting the draft document online for 30 days for public comment, holding a public hearing to obtain public comment and then the PC would have to recommend adoption to the Board of Trustees, they are the final approving body. He also noted that if the plan is not completed and adopted by the 2/1/2020 deadline, Laketon Twp will miss out on another year of being able to apply for any park/rec related grant projects.

**NEW BUSINESS:**                      **NONE**

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**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Rob Taylor of 720 Glenwood – Mr. Taylor distributed a presentation packet to each member and stated he and several other cycling enthusiasts have formed a group called “231 Cycling Coalition” out of a desire to make biking and walking safer in the Muskegon area community. He talked about the increasing popularity of biking and walking for a healthier lifestyle, the local 1 in 21 campaign from The Rotary Club to increase health/wellness and to decrease obesity in Muskegon County and the popularity of doing these activities in Laketon Township. He talked about inexpensive ways to improve safety such as traffic calming items like signs, crosswalk markings and “sharrows” that mark bike lanes and shared roadways with several photos depicting these things. He also touched on more expensive suggestions for improvements such as bike lanes and connecting trails wherever practical – and cited the area between the end of the existing bike path on Dykstra Road and the location where the Berry Junction Trail can be picked up (mostly along Dykstra Rd) and how dangerous it currently is to be riding on Dykstra Rd. His presentation contained a map with suggested areas for cross walks and sharrows to be painted on roadways. Several PC members suggested he also get in touch with the Muskegon County Road Commission for anything involving signs, painting of cross walks and sharrows on the roadway as they are under their jurisdiction. It was also noted that now would be a great time to approach them as the entire length of W. Giles Rd in Laketon Township is going to be under construction this year for a re-surfacing project and after this construction is complete all new lines will need to be painted and it would be a perfect time to ask for sharrows and crosswalks.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

- Board of Trustees – Cindy Zaagman reiterated the township is still waiting on the MDEQ Permit for the Horton Park project.
- ZBA – None.

**ADJOURN:** Cindy Zaagman moved to adjourn the meeting. June Earhart supported the motion. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Veronica West  
Recording Secretary