

Ishpeming Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes for March 02, 2020
(Agenda items are in bold text)
6:30 P.M. @ Ishpeming City Hall

- A. **Call to order** – for the Ishpeming Planning Commission was by Chairperson Gabe Seelen at 6:30 P.M.
- B. **Roll Call**
 - Present: Brooke Routhier, Gabe Seelen, Angelo Bosio, Jim Bertucci, Larry Bussone, Mike Tonkin, Harry Weikel, and Bruce Houghton.
 - Absent: John Carlson – excused.
 - Public present: Rebecca Bolen, and Al Pierce, Zoning Administrator.
- C. **Public Comment:** None – Closed at 6:31 P.M.
- D. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved unanimously as presented on a motion by Brooke Routhier supported by Bruce Houghton.
- E. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes** – The meeting minutes of 02-03-2020 were unanimously approved upon a motion by Brooke Routhier supported by Harry Weikel.
- F. **Presentations** – none.
- G. **Public Hearings** – none.
- H. **New Business**

1. **Rebecca Bolen, Planner II, Draft Public Participation Plan (P3)**

Rebecca introduced herself from the Eastern UP Regional Planning and Development and explained that she was helping Ryan Soucy with our Public Participation Plan (P3). Gabe questioned Rebecca on this P3 plan as we have already done this at the Carnegie Library. She indicated that MEDC had made recent changes to the process upon review. Gabe again asked Why? She responded that this will be a policy document for the City and be tied to subsequent actions / developments. Rebecca questioned the status of our Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Al replied that we have made CIP recommendations to the Council for the last 2-3 years. The Master Plan, Zoning Amendments, and major developments all require Public Hearings and documentation to achieve RRC status. Harry noted that guidelines to work with public policy for City employees to follow would be beneficial. Al mentioned that the recent work for the new Ishpeming Senior Center grant could have benefitted from this type of policy approach. Brooke questioned “capture demographics” under the Community involvement goal as being quite broad and Rebecca indicated that she would clarify the language. Bruce thought that the opportunity for comments should be passed on to Ishpeming High School students. Meeting the requirements of the Open Meetings Act and Planning Enabling Act is anticipated to be informative for developers and the local public. The City Manager will assist in submitting the draft Master Plan to key community stakeholders for their input and participation. As a Communication Tool, it was the consensus of Commissioner’s to skip Braille postings. Under the “Social Media” Communication Tool, the word “will” is to be replaced with “may” as City Staff and available time are anticipated to be limited. Post-event internal reviews are to be conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of the Public Participation efforts. On an annual basis the City Manager is to report to the City Council regarding the pros and cons of public participation and cause the report to be posted on the city web site. Additionally, the Planning Commission is to review and update the P3 every 5 years. On paper this sounds very good, but time will be the judge on the efficacy of extensive public participation efforts.

2. Marquette County Master Plan Region Rallies

Al received this information from the Marquette County Planning Division. They are conducting region rallies for the County 2040 master planning process. We are in the Iron Core Region and our rally is set for May 21, from 6 to 8:30 P.M. at River Rock Lanes and Banquet Center. It will be interesting to participate in their P3 process!

I. Old Business – none.


J. Correspondence

1. Partridge Creek Farms – Raised Garden Bed Construction

Al provided an informational flyer to Commissioners from Partridge Creek Farms in which they offered to construct fully prepared raised garden beds (six sizes) from 3' x 6' x 12" to 4' x 12' x 24" as an opportunity item.

K. Meeting Adjournment was unanimous upon a motion by Larry Bussone supported by Angelo Bosio at 7:45 P.M.

Prepared By:


Alan K. Pierce, Planning Commission Assistant Secretary

Reviewed By:


Jim Bertucci, Planning Commission Secretary