

Ishpeming Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes for October 05, 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 6:32 P.M.

B. Roll Call --

Present: Gabe Seelen, Mike Tonkin, Angelo Bosio, John Carlson, Brooke Routhier, Bruce Houghton, & Harry Weikel.

Absent: None, 2 members short at present.

Public present: Ryan Soucy of CUPPAD, & Al Pierce, Zoning Administrator.

C. Public Comment – None, Closed at 6:33 P.M.

D. Approval of Agenda -- The agenda was approved unanimously as presented upon a motion by Angelo Bosio supported by Harry Weikel.

E. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – The meeting minutes of September 14, 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. Ryan Soucy AICP, Master Plan Continuation

Ryan presented eight slides (paraphrased below) that summarized the results of the **SWOT** (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis he distributed. The Ishpeming community exhibits:

PRIDE in Schools, Working and Heritage;
STEWARDSHIP of Natural assets / Environment
OPPORTUNITY for Four-season Recreation
COMMUNITY CONNECTEDNESS with high-quality Public Spaces
REVERENCE for History and associated structures
WELCOMING Community engagement / participation
GENEROSITY of Community / Volunteer networks
EXCITEMENT for community events / cultural identity

Top Identified Community Values (in order of precedence)

Small Town Values (78%), Historic (75%), Friendly (63%), Heritage (59%),
Pride (49%), Affordable (47%), Walkable (46%), Hard-Working (44%), Scenic (34%)

SWOT Results - OPPORTUNITIES

HUMAN - Reattracting expats, Strengthening remote working possibilities, Showcasing academic excellence

NATURAL- Growing and promoting a four-season recreation economy, Improving the quality of water resources

BUILT - Capitalizing on historic assets, Infill development and re-development downtown,

Neighborhood improvements and quality housing options

POLITICAL - Increasing youth involvement in community decision-making, Sharing in the regional success

FINANCIAL - Seeking grants for all types of projects, Providing support for improving housing stock,

Modernizing infrastructure without breaking the bank

SOCIAL - Better marketing the strengths of our community

CULTURAL - Building a culture of innovation, Developing a brand and identity,

Market our unique cultural assets

SWOT Results – ASPIRATIONS

- HUMAN** - Younger (lower median age) community by attracting more families, building on the success of the schools, and enhancing family-oriented amenities (e.g. Lake Bancroft and Al Quaal)
- NATURAL** - Regarded as a recreational destination hub in the region and beyond, connected by the Iron Ore Heritage Trail
- BUILT** - High quality housing stock with continuous improvement, Community blight is strategically managed and eliminated, Historic downtown and adjacent neighborhoods are revitalizing and are vibrant places where people want to be
- POLITICAL** - To nurture a more civically engaged community with coordination between key institutions like the schools and library
- FINANCIAL** - Fiscally sustainable with a growing tax base that brings in more revenue
- SOCIAL** - A supportive and equitable community where essential needs like affordable food and housing are accessible
- CULTURAL** - A tourism destination that leverages the history of mining and skiing heritage, incorporated into community branding, A place that is known for its arts, science, and innovation, both historic and modern

A Community Vision for Ishpeming (requested text added)

The City of Ishpeming is a culturally-rich, innovation-focused community that is committed to continuous improvement for the benefit of residents and visitors alike. The core values of the past that made this historic mining community great, such as logging / lumbering, generosity and strong work ethic still thrive, making Ishpeming a welcoming community where opportunity flourishes for those with the aspiration to seek it. Families will proclaim what a nurturing environment it is to support a successful future, with its exceptional schools, attractive neighborhoods, natural beauty, attainable living options, and supportive networks. And in winter as much as summer, our region abounds with exciting recreation possibilities for people of all types, ensuring there is never a dull moment for the adventurous. Whether young or old, entrepreneur or tradesman, scientist or artist, there is a place for you in the City of Ishpeming to call home.

Up next: Environment and Natural Resources

What topics are the most relevant & what should be addressed in more detail?

- Developing a four-season recreation economy & sustainable tourism
- Stormwater management and low-impact development
- Quality of surface water resources (Lake Bancroft, Lake Angeline, Deer Lake, Teal Lake)
- Regional non-motorized connectivity and recreation
- Forest management planning (Spruce Budworm Aftermath)
- Climate health adaptations
- Source awareness (Ticks, Lyme Disease)
- Air quality & Environmental Protection
- Emergency response and extreme events (flooding, wildfires, extreme cold)
- Water related
- Energy efficiency – residential, business, and public buildings
- Renewable energy – technologies and siting
- EV charging stations (Limited utility at present)
- Effect of FEMA Flood Zones on Existing Development

Gabe questioned Ryan as to when a Draft Copy of the updated Master Plan was expected to be distributed for review and comments. In response, Ryan expected that a draft would be available for review in the Second Quarter of 2021, with a tentative completion date in September of 2021. There was a brief discussion of electric vehicle charging stations with the consensus opinion that they were of limited utility at present.

I. Old Business – none.

J. Correspondence – none.

K. Meeting Adjournment was unanimous upon a motion by Angelo Bosio supported by John Carlson at 7:14 P.M.

Prepared By:



Alan K. Pierce, Planning Commission Assistant Secretary

Reviewed By:



Bruce Houghton, Planning Commission Secretary