

**Alma Planning Commission
April 7, 2008 Regular Meeting**

Chairperson Lambrecht called the regular meeting of the Alma Planning Commission to order at 5:30 p.m. at the Alma Municipal Building.

Present: Lambrecht, Wheeler, Nyman, Moore, Knarr, Walkington, Ayers & Pellerito

Absent: Stone

A motion was made by Nyman, supported by Wheeler to approve the February 5, 2008 meeting minutes.

Yes: Lambrecht, Wheeler, Nyman, Moore, Knarr, Walkington, Ayers & Pellerito

No: None

The agenda was amended by a consensus of the members present to delay the Public Hearing on the Annual Review of the Special Use Permits for Alma College due to the lack of a representative from the College being present.

Membership on Committees for the Gratiot Countywide Master Plan

Chairperson Lambrecht opened this item of business for discussion. City Manager Phil Moore reviewed his memo regarding this item. Mr. Moore reported that the following list of committees has been formed to assist in putting together the Master Plan. The name next to the committee is that of the individual who has agreed to chair this committee:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Historical Context | David McMacken- Retired teacher |
| Physical Characteristics | Dan Rossman- MSU Extension |
| Population | Rex Hoyt- MidMichigan Health Department |
| Housing | Rex Smith- Gratiot Equalization |
| Economy | Don Schurr- Greater Gratiot |
| Community Services | Brad Heffner- City of Ithaca |
| Roadways and Transportation | Mark Craft- Gratiot Road Commission |
| Education | Don Pavlik- Alma Public Schools |
| Community Collaborations | Phillip Moore- City of Alma |

Mr. Moore stated that volunteers are needed to fill out the membership on these committees. Planning Commission members are asked to volunteer for committees to assist in putting together this Master Plan. Discussion followed.

The following members volunteered:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Economy | Jim Wheeler |
| Roadways and transportation | Fred Walkington |
| Education | Tim Lambrecht |
| Population | Mel Nyman |

Other names that were mentioned as possible committee members included Dean Parling, Robin Anderson, Bryan Dinwoody, Brian Dancer, Ron Turner and Joel Brookens.

Public Hearing – Review of Special Use Permits for Alma College

Chairperson Lambrecht opened the Public Hearing for comments. This Public Hearing is to consider a request from Alma College to review their Special Use Permits for their small group housing units to be used for student housing for the 2008-2009 academic year.

There were no representatives present from Alma College.

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Mr. Walkington asked if any telephone calls or letters were received regarding this request. Mr. Stasa stated that no communication was received in regards to this request.

A motion was made by Walkington and supported by Ayers, to close the Public Hearing and to renew the Special Use Permits for the small group housing units for the 2008-09 academic year. This renewal is contingent upon the inspections being performed as requested by Staff.

Yes: Lambrecht, Wheeler, Moore, Ayers, Knarr, Walkington & Pellerito

No: None

Abstain: Nyman due to a conflict of interest by being employed by Alma College

Other Business

Mr. Moore reported that each community involved in the Gratiot Countywide Master Plan process has been asked to develop a list of what makes their community unique. Discussion followed and the following list was developed:

- Alma College
- The Rail Trail
- The Riverwalk
- Alma Public Library
- The Health Care System located within the City
- The Alma Public School System
- The Airport
- Numerous and various types of Recreational Facilities
- A Quaint Downtown
- Numerous Development Opportunities
- Quality City Services
- Ideal Retirement Community
- 34% of property within the City is tax-exempt

Hearing no further business, Chairperson Lambrecht adjourned the meeting at 6:01 p.m.

M. Daniel Stasa, Secretary
Alma Planning Commission