

MEETING MINUTES OF THE  
GRAND HAVEN CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION  
MARCH 5, 2012

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Redick called the regular meeting of the Grand Haven Charter Township Planning Commission to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Members present: Taylor, LaMourie, Ralya, Redick, Robertson, Worthington, Kantrovich, and Wilson

Members absent: French

Also present: Attorney Bultje & Recording Secretary DeVerney

Redick requested that DeVerney record the meeting minutes.

III. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Without objection the minutes of the January 17, 2012 meeting were approved.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

VI. BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENTS PERTAINING TO AGENDA ITEMS

None.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion with and Direction to LSL Planning Regarding Amendments to I-1 Permitted and Special Uses

Val Lazdins (LSL Planning) gave an overview of I-1 Permitted and Special Uses in other communities that he has worked with. He noted that the 172<sup>nd</sup> corridor is considered light industrial, light fabrication, some wholesale, but no retail sales – service commercial.

Because communities are looking for flexibility due to the economy, he noted that they have permitted batting academies, dance academies, catering facilities, and certain percentage of a building's square footage for retail sale (*i.e. retail showrooms*).

Dave Miller (Chamber of Commerce) noted his concerns from going from industrial to commercial. He strongly recommended that GHT preserve what is industrial in the

172<sup>nd</sup> corridor because the Overlay District makes improvements to potentially sell these businesses very challenging.

Lazdins and commissioners agreed that the 172<sup>nd</sup> corridor has great visibility from the highway. However, a number of the buildings are looking rather grim, so while waiting for the economy to improve, these proposed permitted uses would be beneficial.

Lazdins noted that if a long term, redevelopment plan was drafted, a partnership program between private, public, and state would have to occur. He agreed to discuss a budget, time lines, and writing a draft with Bill Cargo and then return to the Planning Commission for further discussion. Commissioners also requested updating the Special Land Uses (*Section 16.03*)

#### B. Preliminary Discussion Regarding Digital Signs

Redick reviewed Cargo's memo concerning digital sign regulations. Worthington, representing the Township Board, stated the Board's conservative concerns with regard to brightness, hold times, change times, and safety factors.

The commissioners concerns were as follows:

- Hold time – too short
- Change time – most distracting
- Brightness regulation

It was also noted that the commissioners would like to have technical assistance from a planning firm so they have professional input. They also would like to revisit the entire "sign" ordinance.

#### X. REPORTS

- A. Attorney Report  
None.
- B. Staff Report  
None.
- C. Other  
None.

#### XI. EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENTS PERTAINING TO NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

#### XII. ADJOURNMENT

Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.  
Respectfully submitted,

**Kristi DeVerney**  
Acting Recording Secretary