

## **VALLEY TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OF TUESDAY April 23, 2013**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by Chair Garofalo.

**Roll Call:** Members present: Harry Smith, Carol Browne, Fred Lewis, Tony Garofalo, Ron Remington, Zoning Administrator Paul Shamblin was absent

**The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

**Minutes:** Harry Smith made a motion to approve the minutes supported by Ron Remington. The March 26, 2013 Planning Commission minutes were approved.

**Approval of Agenda:** Fred Lewis made a motion supported by Ron Remington to approve the Agenda of April 23, 2013. After discussion of some differences in the agenda, The Agenda was approved.

**Old Business:**

A. Review of Recreation Portion of Master Plan

Chair Garofalo pointed out that the original recreation portion of the Master Plan did not include bicycling as one of the opportunities for recreation in Valley township. Secretary Browne also said snowmobiling could be included. Dr. Jim Connell, a member of the Allegan Township Planning Commission, who is interested in improving bike paths for residents of Allegan County encouraged the Planning Commission to include bicycling and to specifically include language that demonstrated Valley Township's willingness to cooperate with surrounding municipalities in building or extending safe bike routes. He stated that Valley has one of the best routes riders like to take around Lake Allegan because of the scenic nature of the route and because of the wide shoulders on Monroe Road.

Chair Garofalo suggested that both bicycling and snowmobiling be added to the second paragraph of the Recreation section of the Master Plan. After discussion regarding snowmobiling, bike paths versus safe bike routes and the implications of four foot shoulders on paved roads (both township and county), Chair Garofalo made a motion supported by Harry Smith to add bicycling and snowmobiling to paragraph two, line six and to add a new number 4 to the guidelines for future recreation planning efforts stating:

4. Designate bicycle routes within the township that would share safe passage with highway and pedestrian traffic.

a. Where possible when existing roads are repaved they include at least four feet of paved road outside the white line for recreational purposes.

b. Undertake cooperative planning with surrounding municipalities to build a safe bicycle route connecting existing and new routes.

Motion Passed.

Ron Remington also suggested removing the word "daytime" from 3.a. to better describe camping at Echo Point. Commission agreed by acclamation.

**VALLEY TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OF TUESDAY April 23, 2013**

**New Business:**

A. Election of Officers

Ron Remington made a motion supported by Fred Lewis to retain as Chair, Tony Garofalo; as Vice Chair, Harry Smith; and as Secretary, Carol Browne. Motion passed.

B. 2012 - 2013 Annual Report

The 2012 - 2013 Annual Report for the Planning Commission was reviewed. A motion to accept the report as presented was made by Tony Garofalo and supported by Fred Lewis. Motion passed.

C. Review of By Laws

The By-Laws of the Planning Commission were reviewed. No changes were suggested at this time.

**Zoning Administrator Report**

No Report

**Open Discussion of Non-Agenda items**

Secretary Browne asked when the Zoning Administrator would resume attending the Planning Commission. Chair Garofalo said he would discuss the matter with the Township Supervisor.

An inquiry was made pertaining to land owned by the Township. The following properties are owned in addition to where the Township Hall stands: 10 acres at Monroe and 42nd street, 10 acres on the northwest corner of 39th and Monroe and 12 acres of lakefront property at the foot of 39th street. The last property could be developed into a park for the use of Township residents as part of the Township Recreation Plan.

**Adjournment**

Harry Smith made a motion to adjourn supported by Tony Garofalo. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol S. Browne, Secretary