

**VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT
PLANNING COMMISSION
APRIL 11, 2016**

The Regular Meeting of the Planning Commission held at 442 N. Grand Street, Schoolcraft, Michigan, was called to order by Chairperson Tim Brown at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Chairperson Brown, Commissioners Schmitt, Gunnett, Hendriksma, Rozeboom and Pfof.

Absent: Willis.

Also Present: Alan Smaka.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Schmitt, seconded by Pfof, to approve the agenda as presented. All aye.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Schmitt, seconded by Pfof, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 14, 2016 as presented. All aye.

Motion to amend the motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 14, 2016, with minor typographical corrections. All aye.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None.

UPDATE ON VILLAGE ACTIVITIES:

Minutes of Village Council meetings of March 7 and March 21, 2016, were reviewed for file.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Alan Smaka of Wightman & Associates appeared before the Planning Commission to request an extension of the deadline for the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Zoning Ordinance review to allow adequate time for Wightman & Associates to submit a proposal.

Mr. Smaka explained that his firm was did not receive the bid specifications until March 30th, and that they did not have time to respond.

Commissioner Comments:

Chairperson Brown had the following comments:

- He stated that he had looked at Wightman's web site, and that there were no Planners listed.
- He stated that Wightman was primarily an engineering firm, and that they lacked the expertise required to prepare a Comprehensive Land Use Plan, and Zoning Ordinance Update.
- He stated that the Planning Commission would not review the bid proposals in the presence of Mr. Smaka.

Commissioner Gunnett had the following comments:

- He verified that Wightman & Associates did not receive the bid specifications, and that he asked the Village Manger to provide them to Wightman.
- He stated that the downtown is dying, and there is a need to do something different to entice business development.
- He stated that the residents and business owners of Schoolcraft want to see a change, and that they need to have a voice in what the future of Schoolcraft holds.
- He stated that the Village Council, Planning Commission and DDA, need to be cohesive, and that Schoolcraft needs a unified effort from its leadership.

Commissioner Schmitt had the following comments:

- He stated that the community needs to be involved in the process, that the Council needs to be committed to the process, and the community needs a unified consensus of what they want and what needs to happen.
- He expressed concern that the Comprehensive Land Use Plan will sit on a shelf and not be looked at until its next update.

Commissioner Pfof had the following comments:

- She stated that Wightman & Associates presented some great ideas, and that she likes the idea of community involvement.
- She stated that Visioning should take place before the development of a Comprehensive Land Use Plan.
- She stated that Schoolcraft needs to find a niche, and that lack of sanitary sewer is its biggest deterrent.
- She stated that the Village needs to take a new approach to revitalize the U.S, 131 Corridor.

Commissioner Hendriksma had the following comments:

- She stated that she was impressed with Wightman's approach because of the proposed Visioning Process.
- She stated that there is genuine concern from Village residents about empty buildings and lack of businesses.

Commissioner Rozeboom had the following comment:

- He stated that the Scope of Services needs to be changed, and bidders need the opportunity to re-bid to include a Vision Plan.

By general consensus, the Planning Commission agreed to send out an Addendum to McKenna & Associates and Williams and Works, to allow them to re-submit a separate bid for a Vision Plan with a response time of 30 days.

CITIZENS BEFORE THE COMMISSION:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Cheri M. Lutz, Recording Secretary

Tim Brown, Chairperson