

Florence Township Long-Range Planning Commission

Minutes – 12/10/07

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jan Bruce at 7:00 pm. Members present were Jan Bruce, Lowell Noreen, Joe Ellingson, Eric Stensrud, Ben Boege, Vern Genzlinger, Kristen Eide-Tollefson, and Brian Schreiber. Member not present was Rick Janka. A quorum was present.

Minutes of the November 12 meeting were reviewed and accepted as written. Motion by Vern, seconded by Ben.

Unfinished Business: Copies of the updated Goodhue County Zoning Ordinance dated October 2, 2007 were given to each Commission member. Copies were also given to each Township Board member at the November 26 board meeting.

New Business: Lisa Hanni and Kristi Gross from the Goodhue County Zoning/Land Use Management Office attended the meeting and gave an update on the recently printed County Zoning Ordinance. The document has been rewritten to better organize each section or article as it relates to certain types of regulations and the permitting process. There are also new article added like wind energy, wild and scenic river district, and commercial recreational districts.

Lisa and Kristi also commented on the need for more public meetings to find out what is working and not working across the county. This input is important when changes are being considered. The County Comprehensive Plan is scheduled for review and an update in year 2009 – meetings will be scheduled for public input and help in setting the direction of the future for Goodhue County.

There was also a discussion on the available housing in the County. At the present time, there is adequate housing – should this dictate more restrictive permitting for additional new construction? There is a lot of developer speculation occurring – should the regulations have more control to prevent unnecessary development? The collar counties (those surrounding the metro area) are also studying housing options and what is occurring in those counties – restricting development to one area, not another and compensating for not developing.

There was some discussion about services the County can provide to the Township – one was available maps – Vern will check with Sarah Schrader, County GIS Mapping.

With no other business items to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned. Motion by Lowell, seconded by Vern.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Schreiber
Recording Secretary