

Florence Township Long-Range Planning Commission

Minutes – 7/9/07

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jan Bruce at 7:05 pm. Members present were Jan Bruce, Ben Boege, Rick Janka, Eric Stensrud, Joe Ellingson, Vern Genzlinger, Lowell Noreen, Kristen Eide-Tollefson, and Brian Schreiber. All members were present. Clay Ruggles and Joan Marshman, representing the Township Board were also in attendance.

Minutes of the 5/14/07 and 6/11/07 meetings were reviewed and accepted as written. Motion by Rick, seconded by Lowell.

Unfinished Business: James Kranz's variance for a building permit - Bob Johnson shared with the committee that to his knowledge, Kranz did not request a variance from the County to change the location of his building site as discussed at the 4/10/06 meeting of the Planning Commission.

New Business: Chuck Logan, resident of Old Frontenac and representing the citizens of Old Frontenac, presented an issue related to excessive noise from a resident with motor bikes. Contacts with the Goodhue County Sheriff have not been helpful to reduce the frequency or intensity of the noise. The Sheriff has indicated that this kind of nuisance is difficult to control because there are no Township regulation to follow as a means of enforcement. Motor bikes unless licensed are not allowed on streets or roads which sometimes occurs and they also have a track behind their residents were most of the running is occurring.

Copies of Noise Regulations from the cities of Lake City and Red Wing were made available to use as a reference. It was agreed to that the Twp Planning Commission would look at options of drafting regulations, ask for resident input (Township wide as this could apply elsewhere within the Township) and then present a proposal to the Township Board for further discussion.

Highway 61 Lane Change Project – Fausto Cabral, MNDOT Project Manager and two Independent Consultants presented a preliminary review of the design plans as options for lane changes to Hwy 61 through Frontenac Stations. Fausto used a slide presentation to illustrate some of the concerns he has observed – mainly safety and traffic flow issues. He mention a couple – streets not identified as visual streets (no signs, curbs, painted lines) and very open space adjacent to the Hwy and residents or business places along the Hwy. Three concerns were also addressed – Safety, Safety, Safety; location of Hwy right-of-way; and limited budget for project.

Some of the project proposals are as follows: left turn lane between north and south lanes of traffic; median at both end of Frontenac Station to help identify left turn lane; limit number of access streets to Hwy 61; provide for street water runoff and drainage; construct a curb (small 3-4 foot boulevard) on Frontenac Station side of Hwy; and maintain and/or improve landscape along Hwy.

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Carol Zoff, Chair of the National Mississippi Parkway Commission, Transportation Committee, was also present and discussed the Great River Road Scenic Byway Program. This program helps to create an awareness process to make transportation agencies more sensitive to community needs and existing community landscapes and its infrastructure through better Hwy designs ad services.

Continued input from residents and business places along the Hwy is needed so that the changes will have the least amount of negative impact. The Twp Planning Commission can and should provide the leadership necessary to help collect suggestions and ideas on the design before the final plans are drawn up and a proposal is approved by MNDOT.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Schreiber
Recording Secretary