

# Florence Township Long-Range Planning Commission

## Minutes – 1/14/08

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jan Bruce at 7:00 pm. Members present were Jan Bruce, Rick Janka, Eric Stensrud, Joe Ellingson, Ben Boege, Kristen Eide-Tollefson, and Brian Schreiber. Vern Genzlinger and Lowell Noreen were not in attendance. A quorum was present. Also attending the meeting were Township Supervisor Clay Ruggles, Liz Boyer with 1000 Friends of Minnesota and Ben Oleson with Community Growth Institute.

Minutes of the December 10 meeting were reviewed and accepted as written. Motion by Eric, seconded by Joe.

Commission members elected Eric Stensrud to serve as Chair, Rick Janka to serve as Vice-Chair, and Brian Schreiber to serve as the Recording Secretary for the year 2008.

**Unfinished Business:** Copies of Florence Township, taken from the Goodhue County plat book, were given to members. Not all of the roads in the Township are identified. The County staff has been informed and the names have been given to them as an update for the next printing.

Maps of Florence Township, provided by the Goodhue County GIS staff, were on display for members to look at. The maps, about 3 feet by 4 feet in size, show all the parcel owners in the Township as well as roads and some landscape features. There was some discussion on how to display them for future use, but no decision was made. The maps will be kept in the Township Hall.

**New Business:** Sister Rose Eisbernd, Director, and Bill Laidlaw, Chair of the Board of Directors for the Villa Maria, presented a Villa Subdivision Preliminary Plat for Block B of Garrard's South Extension. The plan would be to divide the parcel into three lots for possible development sites. A to scale map was provided to show topog lines and possible lot lines with a proposed access road. The parcel is now zoned as R-1. Some discussion centered around the access road and the need for a turn-around at the end of the road. According to the available information, there should be adequate space to do this and still avoid the steeper slopes on the property. The Commission gave tentative approval of the plan pending a review by the Heritage Commission and the Township Supervisors.

Liz Boyer and Ben Oleson, lead a discussion on the township planning and zoning process. They outlined different levels of authority and responsibility a township can assume and some of the good and bad reasons associated with the levels. They also discussed specific zoning/land use planning options for Florence Township. This discussion also included how the Township can work with the County to help provide the necessary regulation enforcement of an ordinance once enacted.

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Liz and Ben and hopefully someone from the County Land Use Management staff will be in attendance at the February meeting to continue the discussion.

With no other business items to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Schreiber  
Recording Secretary