

WRIGHT TOWNSHIP  
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING  
MINUTES

FEBRUARY 13, 2017, 7:30 P.M.

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rich Dausman at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and a Prayer. Commissioners present: Rich Dausman, Steve Gray, Gary Karr, Dan VanDyke and Steve Van Timmeren. Also present were Wright Township Planner Greg Ransford and Clerk Maureen Carmody as Recording Secretary.
2. No parking in the reserved fire spaces was announced.
3. For the 2017 election of Planning Commission Officers, a motion was made by Karr and supported by Van Timmeren to re-elect Rich Dausman as Chairman, Steve Gray as Vice-Chairman and Gary Karr as Secretary. Motion carried.
4. There were no additions to the agenda.
5. A motion was made by VanDyke and supported by Gray to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2016 Planning Commission Meeting as written. Motion carried.
6. There were no public comments.
7. Planner Greg Ransford presented a proposed final draft of the Master Plan with recommended revisions incorporated upon his review of the Township Attorney's comments regarding the updated Master Plan. The Commissioners agreed with Ransford's recommendations, although VanDyke stated that he thought the Commission should consider the Attorney's suggestion to mandate public utilities in small-lot developments in Low Density Residential Districts and in the Village of Marne. After discussion, the majority of the Commissioners felt that it would not be feasible or prudent in the Master plan to require public utilities due to the lack of public water and limited access to sewer in Wright Township. It was also stated that Wright Township's sewer ordinance already addresses sewer requirements in the Village of Marne. Dausman expressed his disagreement with a portion of page four of the Master Plan regarding Township support of requests from property owners seeking to enroll in the Purchase of Development Rights Program. After discussion, the Commission decided to leave that bullet point in the document. Ransford assured the Commission that they would still have an opportunity to further revise the Master Plan. A motion was made by Karr and supported by VanDyke to send the Master Plan as refined during this meeting to the Township Board for approval. Motion carried.
8. During member concerns, Karr expressed the Commission's appreciation of Greg Ransford's exemplary work as Planner for Wright Township, but he also raised concerns regarding the

future availability of Planner Ransford due to Ransford being recently hired as Planner for Allendale Township. Ransford stated that he is intending to hire someone to work under him to handle Planning matters for Wright Township. Temporarily, Planning Commission meetings will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month to accommodate Ransford's schedule. VanDyke suggested that Commission members try to keep discussions on topic and to the point.

9. Karr did not have any official Wright Township Board communications to present, but he did mention that the Board has been inviting local pastors to open Board meetings with a prayer. Dausman informed the Commissioners that any of them would be welcome to lead the prayer before the Planning Commission meetings.
  
10. A motion was made by Vandyke and supported by Gray to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Maureen Carmody  
Recording Secretary