

MINUTES  
City of Alpena Planning Commission  
Regular Meeting  
November 12, 2019  
Alpena, Michigan

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Planning Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Paul Sabourin, Planning Commission Chair.

ROLL CALL: PLANNING COMMISSION

PRESENT: Kirschner, Austin, Lewis, Sabourin, Boboltz, VanWagoner, Gilmore, Mitchell

ABSENT: Wojda

STAFF: Adam Poll (Director of Planning & Development), Cassie Stone (Recording Secretary).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Agenda was approved as printed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

October 8, 2019 minutes approved as printed.

PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMISSION ACTION: None

BUSINESS: Comprehensive Plan Review

Poll stated that over the last year the Planning Commission has been reevaluating as required by the Planning Enabling Act our Comprehensive Plan. Steve Schnell, a community development planner for NEMCOG (Northeast Michigan Council of Government) is present and has been working on getting chapters updated. Chapters 3-6 already have noted changes which will be passed on to Schnell for updates. Poll stated that chapter 8 was the focus for tonight's meeting as well as discussing the survey that was posted for citizens allowing feedback on their opinion. Poll added that Schnell will ask some questions as part of the contract is a public input session as well and trying to figure out how to get more public comment. Schnell stated that the citizen survey had a pretty good response rate but other methods are needed to reach out to the community. Schnell asked for planning commission responses to the feedback from the survey. Boboltz stated that he was amazed on how many people did not know that recycling programs were offered. Poll asked if this survey was offered to surrounding areas not just the City in which Schnell replied yes this was a combined survey and anyone was allowed to offer

feedback. Mitchell stated that there seemed to be more answers from the Township than City residents. Poll suggested maybe pulling out the township answers in which Schnell said he would look into it. Boboltz stated that he felt the survey overall was reflected as positive. Austin stated that he felt that people were appreciative of the services provided by the City. Mitchell suggested maybe having a monthly calendar of events coming up. Gilmore added that a calendar would help keep stipulations in order from a decision previously made by the Planning Commission. Poll added to highlight items that no longer apply such as the work with Alpena County to keep the Alpena County Jail within the City limits from our goals and objectives. Poll added that there is an action item to establish and promote a Public Art program. We do not have a public art program so maybe state to support public art activities throughout the City. Another action item listed stated to investigate the feasibility of a summertime or year round fixed route specialized public transportation service (trolley). Poll added that this was not utilized as heavily as anticipated and is no longer available. Another item to strike is to support development for a new facility for TBTA (Thunder Bay Transportation Authority) which has since been completed. Marijuana facilities should also be added as the previous plan does not list anything pertaining to this. Schnell questioned what the Planning Commission would like to see happen with the public input process. Austin stated that maybe pull topics from the survey that seemed to be repeated and try to narrow it down with bulletin points. Austin added that it seemed overwhelming positive that people were in agreeance with wanting to see steady growth in the community. Mitchell stated that the majority of people that took the survey were primarily in their sixties. Austin feels that Alpena needs to stand out to potential future residents so they know there is a lot of positive things here and a lot of people are unaware of what Alpena is made of and has to offer. Mitchell suggested inviting the students from Alpena Community College being younger individuals to get their thoughts and opinions on topics. Poll suggested pulling out the top four positive topics and top four negative topics to further discuss. Schnell suggested putting together a one page document to hand out to organizations to get them involved and spread the news in future planning to gather feedback. Schnell stated that the next steps are editing the goals and objectives and the public input session and then followed by the final review of the goals and objectives that are refined should be after the public input session is held.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

#### REPORTS:

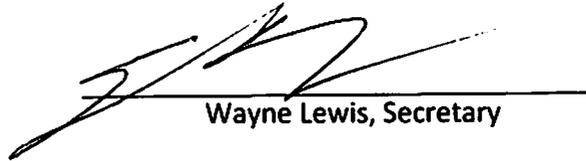
1. Development Update: Poll stated he was approached by a teacher from the TBJH along with the mayor and Jim Klarich to listen to some students on a class project and their thoughts on what they felt would make Alpena more attractive to younger people. Poll added that they were very much orientated in parks and recreation. Overall it was great to hear their thoughts and Poll invited them to public input meeting regarding Mich-e-ke-wis Park being held tomorrow night. Poll added that medical marijuana facility discussion is being held at next Monday's City Council Meeting. NOAA grant is

also moving forward. The new City Manager starts on December 9<sup>th</sup>, and Greg's last day is December 20<sup>th</sup>.

**CALL TO PUBLIC:** Schnell expressed how important it is to fill out the 2020 census in April and that on average \$1800.00 of government assistance is lost to every person not accounted for.

**MEMBERS COMMENTS:** Sabourin congratulated Mitchell for the election to City Council and good luck with his four year adventure and a belated happy veterans day to all of the veterans here.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m. by Sabourin, Planning Commission Chair.



Wayne Lewis, Secretary