



Andy Schor
Mayor

LANSING PLANNING BOARD

Regular Meeting

February 2, 2021

6:30 p.m., Virtual Meeting

The meeting was conducted as an online teleconference in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, as amended, and to follow recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and other public health agencies concerning the COVID-19 pandemic.

MINUTES – *Approved 5/4/21*

1. OPENING SESSION

Mr. Ruge called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

- a. Present: Katie Alexander (remotely from Lansing, MI), Farhan Bhatti (remotely from Lansing, MI), Marta Cerna (remotely from Lansing), Tony Cox, (remotely from Lansing), Monte Jackson (remotely from Lansing), John Ruge (remotely from Lansing, MI)
- b. Absent: Josh Hovey
- c. Staff: Sue Stachowiak, Doris Witherspoon, Andy Fedewa

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – The agenda was approved by unanimous consent

3. COMMUNICATIONS –

- Letter from Emma Henry, Assistant Executive Director, Capital Area Housing Partnership, in support of CDBG, HOME, ESG federal funds for fiscal year 2021/2022

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

a. **FY 2021/2022 Proposed Funding Allocations – CDBG, HOME, ESG Resources.**

Ms. Witherspoon stated that the purpose of the public hearing is to receive input on the proposed funding allocations for the fiscal year 2021 (7/1/21-6/30/22) Community Development Block Grant Annual Action Plan. She said that the amount of the appropriations that the City will be receiving for fiscal year 2021 are estimated to be the same as last year, but exact numbers are not available at this time, however, as with previous years, the City of Lansing will proceed with the Action Plan process/schedule and plan based on the previous year's allocations and adjust accordingly once the actual allocations are received. She said that the budget projections are subject to pro-rata adjustments based on the actual amounts awarded to the City of Lansing by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Ms. Witherspoon stated that CDBG funds can be used to fund housing rehabilitation, public service programs, and economic development that benefits persons of low to moderate income. She said that the HOME program provides down payment assistance for home buyers as well as funding for new housing and housing rehabilitation. ESG eligible activities include rapid re-housing, homelessness prevention, street outreach and emergency shelter operations.

Due to the on-going Coronavirus pandemic, the City of Lansing requested and was granted a one (1) year extension for its new five-year consolidated plan which will be drafted for the years 2022 – 2026. Ms. Witherspoon stated the proposed objectives, goals, and projected uses of funds are presented tonight for Planning Board approval.

Mr. Ruge opened the public hearing.

Emma Henry, Assistant Executive Director, Capital Area Housing Partnership (CAHP), detailed the activities of CAHP and their prior use of federal funds.

Ms. Alexander asked if CAHP has resources for people facing evictions. Ms. Henry answered that they can assist people within their organization if applicable or can direct them to resources elsewhere through their resource guide on their website. There is an ongoing situation during the coronavirus pandemic and they have assisted 450 households in the area so far.

Ms. Witherspoon mentioned the Continuum of Care, a group of organizations within the City that work together to assist people in need.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak, Mr. Ruge closed the public hearing.

5. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE – None

6. RECESS – Not taken

7. BUSINESS

A. Consent Items

(1) Minutes for approval: January 5, 2021

The minutes from the January 5, 2021 Planning Board meeting were approved without objection.

(2) FY 2021/2022 Proposed Funding Allocations – CDBG, HOME, ESG Resources.

The FY 2021/2022 Proposed Funding Allocations - CDBG, HOME, ESG Resources were approved without objection.

B. Old Business – None

C. New Business

(1) Act-1-2021, Forest & Collins Roads Shared Use Pathway & Street Roundabout

Mr. Fedewa stated this is a request from the City of Lansing Public Service Department to acquire permanent easements to add a center turn lane to Forest Rd at Collins Road, to construct a shared use pathway, and to construct a roundabout at the intersection of Forest and Collins Roads. These projects are to create a non-motorized connection to the Bear Lake Pathway and the new McLaren Hospital facility as well as street improvements to improve circulation and safety.

Andy Kilpatrick, Director of the Department of Public Service, gave more details

about the project and stated that there will not be a full lane-widening along Forest Rd. east of I-496/US-127, but that the bike lane will be shifted to the pathway and about a half of a lane added to accommodate the center turn lane. Mr. Kilpatrick stated that the pathway will be on the south side of the street and will connect from the Bear Lake Pathway to the west and extend to the north side to the entrance of the Henry Center and the golf course clubhouse. A part of this overall project, but not part of this request, will be to reconfigure Collins Rd. to provide for bike lanes from the intersection south to Jolly Rd.

Mr. Cox made a motion, seconded by Ms. Alexander, to approve Act-1-2021, Forest & Collins Roads Shared Use Pathway & Street Roundabout. On a voice vote the motion passed unanimously (6-0).

8. REPORT FROM PLANNING MANAGER – None

9. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON – None

10. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Cerna questioned if the ‘smoke stakes’ of the Eckert Power Station were being removed with the power station’s eventual decommissioning and redevelopment. Ms. Stachowiak answered that staff will research if the Planning Board reviewed a case pertaining to the smoke stakes and will see if they can find an update about the power station for the Board.

11. PENDING ITEMS: FUTURE ACTION REQUIRED – None

12. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.