

Minutes

Cascade Charter Township
Planning Commission
Monday, January 22, 2024
7:00 pm
2870 Jacksmith Ave SE

ARTICLE 1. Chair Noordyke called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
Members Present: Noordhoek, Richardson, Bruneau, Moxley, Noordyke, Engel, Rissi, Rowland
Members Absent: None
Others Present: Zoning Administrator (ZA) Madison Smith-Jacoby and others listed on the sign-in sheet.

ARTICLE 2. Pledge of Allegiance

ARTICLE 3. Approve the current Agenda

Motion was made by Member Rissi to approve the current agenda. Supported by Member Engel. Motion carried 8 to 0.

ARTICLE 4. Disclose any conflict of interest

There were no conflicts of interest disclosed.

ARTICLE 5. Approve the Minutes of the December 18, 2023 Meeting

Member Bruneau made a variety of edits including the addition of his comment "Thank you for sharpening your pencil and being within 5 percent of 3 times 832 sqft" to Article 7. In Article 8 he made an edit to the first sentence clarifying that the township's Zoning Ordinance is transferred to a police power ordinance per the Michigan Planning and Enabling Act. He also made an edit to Article 9 in the second sentence to change "preservation" to "conservation" and to include farmers and builders in that discussion as well. Member Bruneau also wanted to mention Lancaster Pennsylvania's ordinances in addition to Grattan Township. Lastly, he wanted it documented that McKenna was approved to assist the Farmland Preservation Subcommittee.

Motion was made by Member Bruneau to approve the December 18, 2023 meeting minutes with the proposed changes. Supported by Member Rissi. Motion carried 8 to 0.

ARTICLE 6. Acknowledge visitors and those wishing to speak

There was no one wishing to speak.

Chair Noordyke moved Article 7.

ARTICLE 8. 2023 Planning Department Annual Report

ZA Smith-Jacoby presented the 2023 Planning Department Annual Report which outlines cases from the prior year. There were 45 new development requests and 9 lot split requests for a total of 54 cases. Also included in the report were attendance records for the year for both the Planning Commission and ZBA members.

Member Rissi noticed Windy Korstange's name was spelled incorrectly.

Member Bruneau suggested including that Ken Peirce is no longer on the Township Board.

Chair Noordyke wanted the list of Planning Commission members adjusted to have the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Trustee Nordhoek, in that order, with the rest of the members in alphabetical order.

ZA Smith-Jacoby also provided summaries of the Farmland Preservation Subcommittee and the Master Plan Committee. There have been continued efforts in working with the Grand Valley Metro Council and other organizations. The Village Design Review Committee has also reconvened.

Member Rissi recommended mentioning the intent to preserve green space in the Farmland Preservation Subcommittee description.

Member Bruneau pointed out that the number of requests should be listed as 54 rather than 53 in the table.

Members sought some level of involvement during the process of hiring a new Planning Director.

Chair Noordyke asked if Manager Smith would be attending a meeting to discuss the Capital Improvement Budget. ZA Smith-Jacoby said she would make a request for this.

ARTICLE 9. 2024 Calendar

Members agreed to move the April 1 meeting to April 22.

ARTICLE 7. Election of Officers

Chair Noordyke explained that the positions to be filled were Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, the Planning Commission Representative to the ZBA, and the Planning Commission Representative to the Village Design and Review Subcommittee Board.

Member Noordhoek suggested moving the elections to next month since Supervisor Lesperance had not made her appointments yet. ZA Smith-Jacoby said the current ordinance states that the election of officers shall take place at the first meeting in January.

A nomination was made by Member Moxley to appoint Member Rissi as Planning Commission Chair. Supported by Member Engel. Member Rissi accepted the nomination.

A nomination was made by Member Richardson to appoint Member Moxley as Planning Commission Chair. Supported by Member Rowland. Member Moxley accepted the nomination.

Vote failed 4-4 by roll call vote to elect Member Moxley or Member Rissi as Chair.

In favor of Member Rissi as Chair: Moxley, Noorddyke, Engel, Rissi

In favor of Member Moxley as Chair: Noordhoek, Richardson, Bruneau, Rowland

Members held discussion around officers.

Member Moxley withdrew his candidacy and then rescinded his withdrawal, stating that he was willing and happy to serve.

A vote carried 7 to 1 by roll call vote in favor of electing Member Moxley as Chair.

In favor of Member Moxley as Chair: Noordhoek, Richardson, Bruneau, Moxley, Noorddyke, Engel, Rissi

In favor of Member Rissi as Chair: Rowland

A nomination was made by Member Rowland to appoint Member Rissi as Planning Commission Vice Chair. Supported by Member Engel. Member Rissi accepted the nomination.

A nomination was made by Member Noordhoek to appoint Member Bruneau as the Planning Commission Vice Chair. Supported by Member Rowland. Member Bruneau accepted the nomination.

A vote carried 7 to 1 by roll call vote in favor of electing Member Rissi as Vice Chair.

In favor of Member Rissi as Vice Chair: Noordhoek, Richardson, Bruneau, Moxley, Noorddyke, Engel, Rissi

In favor of Member Bruneau as Vice Chair: Rowland

A nomination was made by Member Richardson to appoint Member Engel as Secretary of the Planning Commission. Supported by Member Moxley. Member Engel accepted the nomination.

A nomination was made by Member Noordhoek to appoint Member Bruneau as Secretary of the Planning Commission. Supported by Member Rissi. Member Bruneau did not accept the nomination.

The vote for Member Engel to be appointed Secretary of the Planning Commission carried unanimously 8 to 0.

A nomination was made by Chair Noorddyke to appoint Member Moxley as the Planning Commission Representative to the ZBA. Supported by Member Engel. Member Moxley accepted the nomination.

A nomination was made by Member Rowland to appoint Member Bruneau as the Planning Commission Representative to the ZBA. Supported by Member Noordhoek. Member Bruneau accepted the nomination.

A vote carried 5 to 3 by roll call vote in favor of appointing Member Moxley as the Planning Commission Representative to the ZBA.

In favor of Member Moxley as the Planning Commission Representative to the ZBA:
Richardson, Bruneau, Moxley, Noordyke, Rissi

In favor of Member Bruneau as the Planning Commission Representative to the ZBA:
Noordhoek, Engel, Rowland

A nomination was made by Chair Noordyke to appoint Member Rowland as the Planning Commission Representative for the Village Design and Review Subcommittee. Supported by Member Bruneau. Member Rowland accepted the nomination.

A nomination was made by Member Engel to appoint Member Rissi as the Planning Commission Representative for the Village Design and Review Subcommittee. Supported by Member Richardson. Member Rissi accepted the nomination.

A vote carried 6 to 1 with 1 abstention to appoint Member Rowland as the Planning Commission Representative for the Village Design and Review Subcommittee.

In favor: Noordhoek, Bruneau, Moxley, Noordyke, Rissi, Rowland

Opposed: Engel

Abstained: Richardson

ARTICLE 10. Acknowledge visitors and those wishing to speak

There was no one wishing to speak.

ARTICLE 11. Any other business

Member Moxley noted that there is a Farmland Preservation Subcommittee meeting on January 24 at 8:00 am at the Cascade Township Office.

Member Bruneau questioned why legal counsel was not in attendance to present the commission with documents discussed at the previous meeting. He expressed the difficulty of holding a public hearing without reviewing the documents beforehand.

Member Rissi suggested canceling and rescheduling the public hearing. ZA Smith-Jacoby stated that she had sent the documents from Attorney Homier to Chair Noordyke the previous week. Chair Noordyke apologized for being out of the loop and requested she send the documents to the new Chair.

Member Engel expressed his gratitude to Chair Noordyke for the commendable work he has accomplished in his role as Chair.

Member Rissi said there is usually a copy of the Bylaws, code of conduct, and other documents included in the meeting packet for review for the first meeting of the year. He thought it would be good to include it in the next meeting.

ARTICLE 12. Adjournment

Motion was made by Member Engel to adjourn the meeting. Supported by Member Moxley. Motion carried 8 to 0. The meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Engel, Secretary