

**ALPINE TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
October 20, 2016**

**16-35 CALL TO ORDER / APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF
June 16, 2016 AND THE / PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

The Alpine Township Planning Commission held its regular meeting on October 20, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Alpine Township Center, 5255 Alpine Ave., NW, Comstock Park, MI 49321. Present: Chair Bruce Lee, Vice Chair Mike O'Malley, Secretary Lisa Frizzell, Mike Kayner and Dawn Swafford. Planner Susan Becker was also present. Chair Bruce Lee called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

O'Malley moved, with support from Swafford to approve the Alpine Planning Commission's regular Meeting Minutes of July 21, 2016. One correction: Kayner moved and Jakems supported the motion to approve the site plan for the Alpine Church Street apartments.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion Carried

Chair Lee opened the meeting up for Public Comment on any non-agenda items. No comments were received.

16- 36 DISCUSSION ON MEETING PROTOCOLS

Chair Lee wanted to discuss how the July 2016 meeting went with regards to public input during a site plan review item on the agenda; which does not require a public hearing. Prior to the July meeting, the nearby property owners were invited as a courtesy to the meeting and were informed it was for informational purposes only and that it wasn't a public hearing. The applicant later expressed he felt the meeting turned into a public hearing.

Cordes and Jakems arrived

Chair Lee expressed his desire for direction from the Commissioners on how to handle public comment in such situations in the future. The Commissioners unanimously agreed that it was a good idea to continue to mail courtesy invitations for certain site plan reviews that impact residential neighborhoods. At the beginning of such a meeting, the public would be reminded that site plan reviews do not require public hearings and residents were invited as a courtesy so that they could be aware of what it happening in their neighborhood.

The Commissioners advised the chairperson that residents at such meetings could speak/ask questions only once. Opportunities for rebuttals would not be allowed, that way the meeting wouldn't inadvertently turn into a public hearing as it felt like this past July.

O'Malley motioned, supported by Cordes to open the public comment portion.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion carried

16-37 PUBLIC COMMENT

Dave and Pam Parm of 4037 Carrington Dr. NW, City of Walker, addressed the Commission. Their bookkeeper's 16-year old daughter recently died as a result of a car accident at 6 Mile Road and Fruit Ridge Avenue. They inquired whether or not changes could be made to the intersection to increase the stop sign's visibility on 6 Mile Road. They expressed their willingness to fund raise to help defray any costs. Discussed were reflectors on the stop sign posts, installation of stop ahead signs, solar lights on top of the stop sign, flashing lights and street lights. Cordes explained the roads are maintained and managed by the Kent County Road Commission. Planner Becker offered to contact the Road Commission and share the discussed concerns and comments and follow up what she learns from the Kent County Road Commission with Mr. and Mrs. Parm.

O'Malley motioned, supported by Cordes to close the public comment portion

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion carried

16- 38 STAFF UPDATE / ADJOURNMENT

Planner Becker updated the Commission with the following:

- Alex Arends' retirement open house announced, Rose Kogge's retirement announced
- Medical Marihuana Act update from Twp. Attorney discussed. It was the consensus of the Commissioner's not to allow any of the new Medical Marihuana Act uses (grower, processor, secured transporter, provisioning center, or safety compliance facility). If a municipality wants to allow such uses, state law requires the municipality to specifically to allow such in its ordinances. If a municipality does not want allow such uses, nothing needs to be done.
- DAS update: The model Distributed Antenna Systems license agreement will go to GVMC for approval soon before distribution
- SAW grant update: The GIS layers will be reviewed next week along with the initial Capital Improvement projects
- General construction project updates and upcoming projects mentioned
- PC terms of office

O'Malley motioned, supported by Cordes to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Motion carried

Lisa Frizzell, Planning Commission Secretary

Sue Becker, Acting Recording Secretary