

**Meeting Minutes
Saline Sustainability Circle
Tuesday September 15, 2009
Saline City Hall
100 North Harris Street, Saline**

1) Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm.

Present:

Lodi Township: Jack Steeb, Doug Veenstra

Pittsfield Township: Barbara Fuller, Ann Harris

Saline Area Schools: Tom Wall

Saline Chamber of Commerce: Larry Osterling

City of Saline: Todd Campbell, Jack Ceo, David Rhoads

Washtenaw County Office of Strategic Planning: Brett Lenart

York Township: Gary Zajac

LIAA: Heather Seyfarth

2) Review and Acceptance of Minutes from July 21 and September 2, 2009

Motion by Steeb, supported by Rhoads, to approve the July 21 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Rhoads, supported by Steeb, to approve the September 2 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

3) LIAA Partnerships for Change Grant and Regional Planning Guidelines Discussion

September 2 meeting recap

- Mark Wyckoff spoke about three joint planning case studies
 - Frankenmuth
 - Joint PUD process: both entities must approve.
 - Saugatuck and Douglas
 - Kalkaska
 - Water and sewer services joint planning and operation.
- Innovative things take a long time.
- Private interests are starting to lead quality of life discussions.
- Now is the time to plan while there is not much development pressure.

Next step:

- Establish a concrete goal:
 - a) Update Regional Planning Guidelines;
 - i) Formally adopt by all jurisdictions in individual Master Plans, or
 - ii) Continue to use as guidelines, or
 - b) Choose a high priority topic to implement (e.g., Urban Service District) and incorporate into each Master Plan, or
 - c) Joint Planning Commission, or
 - d) Joint Master Plan (all units adopt the same plan).

- Discussion
 - Be sure the appropriate players participate in the process to assure the result is adopted.
 - The result needs to be written as a policy, not as a guideline, and adopted by all.
 - How do communities get to where they want to be?
 - What are the goals for the process?
 - Need a sense of community so we are all working in same direction.
 - Force field analysis:

Support	Barriers
Approval by boards to engage in process	Not everyone is coming to the table
Keep communication alive, keep people informed	
Education	Fear of losing autonomy
Amend Master Plan with sentence referencing guidelines	Work required to update Master Plan
Process substantive	Agreement on content
Creativity	
Eventual efficiency	Time and resources

- Consensus
 - Establishing Urban Service District(s) would be easier to reach than a full review/rewrite of the Regional Planning Guidelines.
 - It is important to have elected representatives participate.
- LIAA participation and facilitation
 - LIAA estimates, based on previous experience, that participation and facilitation by an LIAA representative (Heather Seyfarth) would cost \$30,000. A grant for 70% of the total (\$21,000) may be available; the grant application deadline is October. The local organization must fund the remaining 30% for the application to be considered.
 - It was agreed that continued LIAA participation and facilitation would be valuable. The facilitation services provided by Ms. Seyfarth have focused our efforts thus far. Members expressed concern that additional time and effort would be required to meet our goal without facilitation.
 - After some discussion about tight budgets in the individual municipalities, we determined that local matching funds are not available. We will not apply for a grant.
 - LIAA will wrap up its participation at our next meeting. Ms. Seyfarth will present a summary of our discussions, a sample work plan, and ideas for education materials.

4) Next Meeting

- Ann Arbor Region Success Group
- Develop Urban Services District work plan.
- Draft education materials.

- 5) Future Agenda Items
 - Develop a strategy for Private Wastewater Treatment Plants within the SSC region
 - Transfer of Development Rights (Elizabeth Riggs)

- 6) Upcoming Meetings
 - October 20: York Township
 - November 17: Pittsfield Township

- 7) Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

- 8) Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Douglas Veenstra
Secretary

Visit the Saline Sustainability Circle website at www.salinesustainability.org.