

**Meeting Minutes
Saline Sustainability Circle
Tuesday December 15, 2009
Brecon Village
200 Brecon Drive, Saline, MI 48176**

1) Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson Campbell called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

Present:

Lodi Township: Jack Steeb, Doug Veenstra

City of Milan: Martha Churchill

Pittsfield Township: Barbara Fuller

Saline Area Schools: Tom Wall

Saline Chamber of Commerce: Larry Osterling

City of Saline: Todd Campbell, Gretchen Driskell, Art Trapp

York Township: Jane Kartje, Joe Zurawski

Eastern Michigan University: Nina David

Others: John Olsen

2) Review and Acceptance of Minutes from November 17, 2009

Motion by Fuller, supported by Steeb, to approve the November 17 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

3) Urban Growth Boundary Discussion

Gretchen Driskell introduced Nina David, a professor of Geography and Geology at Eastern Michigan University; her PhD research focused on regional planning. Professor David discussed various options for student assistance/internship for the process of developing an urban growth boundary:

- Clerical assistance
- GIS-related assistance
- Develop the education component for presentation to, and involvement of, various governmental entities.
- Class Project to compare various Master Plans
- Class project to help prepare Regional Plan

Discussion:

- Desire to have a plan that supports local plans and provides a strong defense against developers.
- Need educational component to bring stakeholders up to speed on the process and what has already been done.
- Do we want Urban Growth Boundary vs. Urban Services Boundary?

Conclusions:

- A list of tasks and job description for intern are needed.
- We need to set expectations.

- Other requirements, such as writing, verbal communication, GIS, knowledge of planning, need to be defined.
- Todd Campbell will lead the effort to develop the requirements for the intern(s). He will send the required information to Prof. David.
- Prof. David will post the requirements and gather the responses. She will package the list of interns with her comments.
- There is an advantage to have an internship begin at the start of the semester, because the student can earn academic credit for the internship. This is not a requirement, however; many internships begin in the middle of the semester.

Next meeting: develop the process and criteria for selecting intern(s).

Other information regarding EMU programs:

- Bachelor and graduate degrees in Urban and Regional Planning.
- GIS programs.
- Historic Preservation programs.

4) Announcements and Meeting Notices

- Saline Area Schools held another community conversation on December 14; budget issues were the main topic. A copy of the handout may be viewed at http://salinesustainability.org/meetings/2009Meetings/121409_Schools_Conversation.pdf
- The Saline Area School Board voted to move its annual elections from May to November to reduce its election costs.
- York Township is updating its master plan
- York is seeing some signs of life in the housing market, particularly near Toyota.
- Pittsfield Township is planning a water main project in the Carpenter-Packard-Washtenaw area
- Pittsfield Township is conducting contract negotiations with its represented employees.
- City of Saline adopted a non-motorized plan and is working on a transportation plan.
- City of Saline has started its budget process.
 - Setting priorities to deal with its budget issues.
 - Combining some positions; assistant city engineer is now also DPW director.
 - Surveyed employees to solicit ideas to reduce costs or increase revenues.
 - Have lost four employees.
- The new City of Saline governmental website www.cityofsaline.org is up.
- BeSaline.com is the city's marketing website.
- The city is working with CGI to provide six one-minute commercials to be on the governmental website.
- The city recently increased water rates to better recover its costs. The city will still be near the lower end of the range of rates for municipalities of comparable size.
- The city is reducing new capital improvements so as not to incur additional debt.
- Lodi Township Master Plan has gone to the Board of Trustees for approval.
- City of Milan is starting to work on its Master Plan. It recently implemented a DDA Plan.
- Milan is also reducing taxes and increasing water rates. Net result for city residents will be little change, but increased water fees for property outside the city will better reflect the true cost of providing water service.

- Mark Wyckoff is putting together an application for a \$1.5 million federal grant to help the 14 Michigan regions (e.g., SEMCOG) develop growth plans. If the grant is approved, the plans would be completed by October, 2010.
- Recent holiday activities:
 - Tree lighting ceremony December 4.
 - Holiday Parade December 5 had 1500 participants, 14 floats.
 - 58 businesses participated in Treasure Trail on December 12.

5) Upcoming Meetings

- January 19, 2010: Union School
- February 16, 2010


6) Public Comment

None offered

7) Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Douglas Veenstra
Secretary

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