

**Fremont Community Joint Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, October 26, 2009
5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Dayton Township Hall
Council Chambers**

Members Present:	Sheridan Charter Township:	Don Potter
	Sheridan Charter Township:	Jeff Wharton
	Sheridan Charter Township:	Jack Taylor (Chair)
	Dayton Township:	Kent Folkema
	Dayton Township:	Shirley Hooker (Vice chair)
	Dayton Township:	Chuck Whitman
	City of Fremont:	Jim Breinling
	City of Fremont:	Peg May (Secretary/Treasurer)
	City of Fremont:	Jim Sloan
	City of Fremont:	Lon Vredeveld

Members Absent:	City of Fremont:	Don Henry
	Sheridan Charter Township:	Tom Karnemaat

Others Present:	Sheridan Charter/Dayton Townships:	Peter Lance
	City of Fremont:	Michele Ribant

Guests:	Great Lakes Leadership Academy	Sara Pearson
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Call to Order and Opening Remarks

The meeting of the Commission was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Chair Jack Taylor.

Review and Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Shirley Hooker, seconded by Peg May and carried to amend the agenda for the October 26, 2009 meeting to add section 6a “Discussion on Joint Planning Process” conducted by Sara Pearson of the Great Lakes Leadership Academy.

Review and Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Don Potter, seconded by Jim Breinling and carried to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2009 FCJPC meeting.

Public Comment

Glen Sparks, who resides at 2195 S. Van Wagoner, informed the FCJPC that the Newaygo County Farm Bureau passed a resolution that indicated that the beautification of the City streets should not be paramount over safety. He indicated that it was felt that the trees in downtown Main Street create a vision issue for motorist as does the decorative fencing that was erected at Walgreens.

Michele Ribant indicated that after the Walgreens development was completed, the City amended its zoning code to better address vision issues at street corners in the future.

Old Business

The Commission addressed all the issues that were carried over from the last agenda, which are as follows:

- Old Business,
- Update on Fremont Community Joint Comprehensive and Growth Management Plan
- Update on Joint Zoning Working Group
- New Business

Treasurer's Report

Peg May reported that the only expense incurred since the beginning of the fiscal year that started on July 1, 2009 was \$50.00 that covers the cost of printing for agendas, maps, etc. Jeff Wharton pointed out that the report needs to be revised to reflect the current fiscal quarter "Actual as of 09/30/09" correctly. It had last year's date on the report. He also indicated that footnote 63 should reference "Sheridan Charter/Dayton Township Zoning Administrator" – not Supervisor. Michele Ribant said she would make the changes. The Commission accepted the report as information.

Peg May also distributed the education worksheet that outlines the education credits each commissioner earned this year. She asked the Commissioners to review it and provide her with any updated information, if necessary.

Discussion on Joint Planning Process – Sara Pearson, Representative of the Great Lakes Leadership Academy

Sara Pearson explained that she was doing research into regional collaboration for the Great Lakes Leadership Academy and that she was interested in learning about the joint planning process that the Fremont community used. Each commissioner expressed views on the joint planning process. Some of the feedback included the following:

- It was a longer process than anticipated.
- You should get a professional consultant to assist in the process.
- It's all about working with people.
- It was too slow of a process; it took too many small steps.
- You had to listen to views you did not necessarily agree with but that is also the good news – everyone had the opportunity to express their opinion.
- It was a unique opportunity. It is interesting to hear personal opinions.
- It took a long time to build trust. Small steps were very important for the Townships.
- It was a learning experience; it became clear how much conflict there was in the past.
- You had to have the proper mindset; you had to think of what is best for the greater community.
- It was a very interesting process; it takes time to change minds and/or develop ideas.
- We have come a long way in terms of cooperation. We used to have boundary disputes, but now relationships are much healthier.
- The process was timely, but the end product thus far has been positive. The Joint Comprehensive Plan has the ten tenets of Smart Growth as its goals. This will be a great plan to guide the community into the future.

She said that the Academy's goal is to make Michigan a better place in the future and that this information will help her formulate a report on regional cooperation. Ms. Pearson thanked everyone for their input.

Fremont Community Joint Comprehensive and Growth Management Plan

The final version of the Fremont Community Joint Comprehensive and Growth Management Plan was distributed. The Commission reviewed the deliverables that were outlined in the contract with the Land Information Access Association (LIAA) to determine which items the Commission wanted. The Commission decided that they needed the following items:

- All maps, text and appendices in PDF and Word formats
- Three 2' by 3' hard copy maps (15a and 15b only) mounted on display boards.

The Commission acknowledged the fact that during this process a GIS system was not established due to cost constraints.

Update on Joint Zoning Working Group

Chair Taylor reviewed the notes from the September 21, 2009 Joint Working Group meeting.

Discussion on Farmland Preservation as it relates to the Joint Zoning Code

Chair Taylor indicated that the Joint Working Group is going to be discussing which regulations to incorporate into the agricultural districts but that in order to understand which regulations to incorporate, they need to understand the overall goals of the full Commission as they relate to farmland preservation. There was much conversation on the issue, but no definitive direction was given.

New Business

There was no new business.

Commissioner's Discussion

There was no commissioner's discussion.

Next FCJPC Meeting

November 23, 2009
Dayton Township Hall
5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Chuck Whitman, seconded by Don Potter and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 p.m.