

**MEDINA TOWNSHIP
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE
MEETING
MAY 7TH, 2012**

The Medina Township Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee met in Regular Session on May 7th, 2012. Chairman Ostmann called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Roll Call

Mr. Ostmann called for a roll of all members. All members were present with the exception of Alan Hallock, Anthony Ratajczak, Judy Ruppelli and Chief David Arbogast. Also present were Trustees Michael Todd and Ray Jarrett, Asst. County Prosecutor William Thorne, Kirby Date, AICP and the general public.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Baach moved to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Traynor seconded the motion. The vote was all in the affirmative. There were no nays or abstentions.

Mr. Todd spoke about the Trustees support of the Committee. The Trustees will fund any work that is done by a professional and they will fund a survey and/or a questionnaire. Mr. Todd said if any members have questions please call him.

Kirby Date

Ms. Date said she reviewed the draft comprehensive plan and what tasks are needed for the Committee to do. Ms. Date spoke about her summary of findings (see attached):

1. Overall review of plan.
2. Fiscal Factors
3. Land and Development needs.
4. Public process
5. Economic changes.

She suggested involving the public by holding 2 public meetings or workshops and also sending out a community questionnaire. Assess the current condition of factors affecting community development decisions going forward. Update and expand projections to assess key factors affecting future community investment and development decisions. Provide list of best practice recommendations that help protect natural and community character.

Mr. Ostmann asked if it was legal to stop new subdivisions from being developed until existing developments are finished. Mr. Thorne said if you can document that your facilities cannot handle a new subdivision then he thinks it can be done. You have to justify what you are going to do by the information you have in your comprehensive plan.

Chief Crumley asked if it could be put into Zoning that empty foreclosed homes must have contact information posted.

Chris Traynor asked if the same information can apply to empty commercial buildings.

Robin Gray asked how much land is in the township. That will be checked into.

Mr. Thorne said Medina City, Wadsworth City and Brunswick City formally detached all their territory from the townships so it is no longer township land.

Survey/Questionnaire

After reviewing the sample questionnaire submitted by the Committee, Ms. Date said statistically it would not be a valid survey stating any information you get about support for tax levies or support for specific policy decisions is not going to be very useful to you. People may get the false expectations that they can vote for the things that are in the questionnaire and you will act on the results. What you are looking for is general trends and opinions, what people are happy or unhappy with, or any one issue that comes up again and again. You also need to have space for comments.

Robin Gray felt a question regarding hydro-fracking should be on the questionnaire. She said a survey was sent out in a town in New York and the people did not want hydro-fracking, yet when the town did a comprehensive plan they made it hydro-fracking friendly. Ms. Date asked if it was a survey or a questionnaire because you would need statistically valid numbers in order to use it as a justification for a policy. Mr. Thorne said the Township has no authority to do anything regarding fracking.

Cynthia Szunyog asked if there was anyway to restrict the size of a gas station, hotel or store. Mr. Thorne said you need to explain why you want to restrict it to a certain size, there has to be rational behind the restriction. Mr. Thorne also told the committee that their job was to create a comprehensive plan that is best for the overall community, not just what is best for a small group of people who don't want anything in their community.

Ms. Date said you need to anticipate what development may be in the future. The end of your plan will have 3 or 4 indicators you can measure every year like population, how many children, how many houses have been built, etc., to see where you stand in your recommendations.

Mr. Baach asked Ms. Date if she has seen smaller governmental entities looking at issues relating to regionalism and is that in a comprehensive plan. Ms. Date said that is mentioned in the comprehensive plan draft and it would be useful to stay on top of it. Mr. Thorne said the regional aspect has some benefit but you need to know what is going on around you and what impact it will have.

Ms. Date is going to create a list of tasks that need to be done and then the committee needs to decide if they are going to handle them or get help.

Ms. Date suggested having the consultant on board before a questionnaire is created. There was discussion regarding cost for a consultant. The committee can call other townships for referrals of consultants used in the past. Ms. Date said 2 public hearings are necessary and then a third and final meeting for content input.

SCM5/7/12

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sally Gardner (3333 Foskett Road) said Leadership Medina County had a presentation and the title is "The Conversation Continues" with expert statistics for Medina County. You can find it on their website.

Sandra Bilek (3414 Hamlin Road) asked when the questionnaire would go out and how many more meetings will be had before it is sent out. She then discussed hydro-fracking.

Alliss Strogin (3003 Hood Road) said if the majority of the people are against fracking they should not sell the property.

Robin Gray said if fracking is not part of the zoning what happens to the property values of the community if there is a blow out accident.

Mr. Thorne said it is completely controlled by the state and the townships just have the fall out.

Ms. Date said the Comprehensive Plan is not intended to address every aspect of life in the Township. It is not universal; it is a comprehensive land use plan within township authority.

Date of Next Meeting

The Committee will hold their next meeting on June 11th, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Baach moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. West seconded the motion. Mr. Ostmann asked for a vote of the Committee. The vote was all in the affirmative there were no nays or abstentions.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.



William Ostmann, Chairman



William West, Vice-Chairman