



FLINT MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

July 7, 2015



Members Present:

Pamela Hawkins
Councilwoman VanBuren
Sandra Robinson
Mona Munroe-Younis
Clarence Pierce

Raynetta Speed
Judy Hovey
Elizabeth Jordan
Jim Richardson (Co-Chair)

Members Not Present:

Bryant Nolden
Barry Williams
John Henry
Linda Boose (excused)
Bob Wesley

Isaiah Oliver
Charles Tutt
Paul Mattern
Councilwoman Poplar

Staff Present:

Megan Hunter
Kevin Schronce

Kristin Stevenson

CALL TO ORDER:

Co-Chair Jim Richardson called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm. The meeting was held at the Flint Public Library, 1026 Kearsley St., Flint, MI room B1.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Co-Chair Richardson stated that this is a working meeting of the Master Plan Steering Committee. Therefore, public comment will be limited to the first ten minutes in order to allow for dialogue between Steering Committee members.

One public comment was made regarding zoning in Civic Park.

PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE

Mrs. Elizabeth Jordan informed the committee that the Planning Commission had a conditional use request and explained that it was a chance to educate residents on zoning.

DRAFT ZONING CODE DISCUSSION:

Co-Chair Richardson called on Mr. Kevin Schronce to begin the discussion on the draft zoning code.

Mr. Schronce began by sharing that Planning staff has begun to go through the public comments received. He shared that there are not any substantial changes but staff is interested in continuing to work with the Steering Committee and hear their suggestions. He shared the staff has been attending about two neighborhood/block club meetings per week to inform residents about the draft code. He encouraged the committee members to engage with their neighbors and other community members and help to inform the public.

Mr. Schronce opened the discussion to 'Food Trucks', Article 9 of the draft zoning code. Co-chair Richardson asked if multiple food trucks would be allowed on a single lot. Mr. Schronce responded that the current language only permits food trucks in the public right of way.

Co-chair Richardson wondered if there would be an issue of food trucks taking away business from existing

businesses and voiced a concern regarding the number of food trucks in one location. Mr. Schronce responded that we are able to limit the number of trucks. He also pointed out that “mobile vending” is a better way to describe the topic. He then brought up a point made by Mrs. Jordan; the City should permit food trucks as a special use in the OS district. He asked then about location, should they be permitted on public land or just in the right away? Mrs. Monroe-Younis said that it is a good idea to add language about where they are allowed and language regarding permissions on private property should also be included.

Council person Vicki VanBuren raised the question of selling vs. providing and asked if there is a difference; party, celebration, fundraising.

Mr. Schronce asked the committee to share any thoughts regarding hours or other issues.

Mrs. Monroe-Younis said that at least one trash receptacle should be provided by the food truck owner.

Ms. Sandra Robinson asked if the hours change depending on the area? Mr. Schronce responded yes, depending on the district. Mrs. Jordan added that in the OS district, they would need to close when the park closes.

Co-chair Richardson asked if it is possible for a business owner to contract food trucks on his/her property. Mr. Schronce responded that he thinks it is permitted as long as it does not impact adjacent businesses but he would have to take a closer look at the code to verify.

Mrs. Jordan wondered about location of the trucks and brought up the point that there are not a lot of public right of way.

Mrs. Megan Hunter said that we can be more restrictive and limit the duration in order to not take away from businesses however the culture does not really exist. Co-chair Richardson responded that he thinks we should be liberal about it and moved to the next topic.

Mr. Schronce began the discussion of Fireworks and gave an overview of permitted locations and manner of sales based on the article provided. He asked for thoughts on whether or not this should be a standalone ordinance. Mrs. Hunter proposed that the City mirror the Farmington Hills language provided. Co-chair Richardson and others agreed.

Mrs. Raynetta Speed asked if they are allowed in GN district. Mrs. Hunter responded that they are not and they should not be treated different from other seasonal sales.

Mrs. Jordan stated that fireworks stands should only be allowed in commercial corridors. Co-chair Richardson shared that he disagrees; fireworks are a seasonal sale. He said that fireworks should be treated in the same manner as flowers.

Mr. Schronce moved the discussion on to the topic of wireless communication towers. He explained that there is only so much the City can do locally to limit towers. He said that it is not permitted to exclude them from an entire district.

Mr. Schronce gave an update on the outreach done over the past four months with the goal being to receive substantial feedback. He explained the staff’s efforts in building a business owners contact list.

MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TASK GROUP UPDATE

Mr. Schronce gave a brief overview of the projects being undertaken by the implementation task groups.

Co-chair Richardson asks about continuation of the Master Plan Steering Committee after adoption of the zoning code. He also inquired about support for the task groups. Mrs. Hunter responded that there is not yet a clear path but she recommends some type of volunteer coordination throughout the department and the Planning Commission will have to offer thoughts. She also emphasized that planning staff tries to empower community through master plan implementation. Mrs. Jordan asked that there be recognition of some sort for the task group volunteers and documentation of the support the groups provided.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT:

Co-chair Richardson adjourned the meeting at 7:30pm and thanked everyone for their input.

Submitted by: Kristin Stevenson 8.12.2015