

CITY OF PIQUA, OHIO
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2009 - 6:00 P.M.
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT COMPLEX - COMMISSION CHAMBERS

CALL TO ORDER

6:00 P.M. – Chairman Spoltman called the meeting to order. Mr. Spoltman noted for the record the hearing of each item would be conducted according to a modified Roberts Rules of Order, more specifically as follows:

- A. Clerk to State the Agenda Item
- B. Staff Comments
- C. Applicant/Agent Comments
- D. Other Affected Parties Comments
- E. Board Member Comments and Questions
- F. Board To Take Action On The Item

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mark Spoltman, Brad Bubp, Mike Taylor, Jim Oda, and Jean Franz
Members Absent: None
Staff Members: Chris Schmiesing, Becky Cool
Attendees: Amy Havenar, Bob Graeser
Gary Sierschula and Mark Sierschula

MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Spoltman asked if there were additions, deletions or corrections to be made to the February 3, 2009 meeting minutes included in the agenda packet. Mr. Oda made a motion to approve the February 3, 2009 meeting minutes as submitted, and Mrs. Franz seconded the motion. Mr. Oda, Aye: Mr. Bubp, Aye: Mrs. Franz, Aye: Mr. Taylor, Aye and Mr. Spoltman. A roll call vote resulted in a 5 -0 vote in supporting the motion to approve the meeting minutes as submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OTHER BUSINESS

Presentation - US36/I-75 Beautification Project

Chris Schmiesing gave a brief overview of the background leading up to the US 36/I-75 Beautification Project. Gary Sierschula, President of Envision Works, the Landscape Architect for the project presented three alternative plans they have submitted for consideration on this project.

Mr. Sierschula stated the \$250,000 grant for this project is not a large amount for a project of this scope.

There was a lengthy discussion on each of the three concepts, the placement of the signage, the visibility of the sign from the interstate and the off ramp, the type of plants and trees that would be used, possibility of having the sign lit, and the type of materials to be used for the wall.

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Mr. Schmiesing stated the purpose of presenting this item to the Planning Commission is to solicit input and guidance from the group on what details the final design should include.

See exhibit 'A' for Planning Commission comments noted by the design consultant.

Presentation – East Ash Street Improvement Project

Chris Schmiesing gave a brief overview of the proposed East Ash Street corridor improvements. Mr. Schmiesing also reviewed the content of a letter of support to be endorsed by the Planning Commission and mailed to the Ohio Department of Transportation as a show of support for the proposed construction improvement project. Mr. Schmiesing stated similar letters of support have also been requested from the Chamber of Commerce, Grow Piqua Now, Mainstreet Piqua, and the Piqua Improvement Corporation.

There was discussion regarding the funding available for the project. City Engineer Amy Havenar explained they hope to receive about one million from federal funds, and a half million from the Ohio Department of Transportation for this project. Total cost of the project is expected to be two and half to three million.

Mr. Schmiesing stated the letter is an effective way for the Planning Commission and other community organizations to voice their support of the community's stated vision for the project as expressed through the comprehensive plan.

Mr. Oda stated he would like to a significant piece or statute or monument significant to the Piqua Community incorporated into the improvements. Mr. Schmiesing pointed out this is roadway project and that as gateway to the community streetscape and landscape features would be appropriate elements to include in the scope of the project. There was also discussion regarding both the current and possible future uses of surrounding properties.

Mr. Schmiesing and Ms. Havenar gave a brief overview of the history of the project explaining the number of traffic lanes that are being considered, and the possibility of adding a boulevard, and the type of boulevard. It was also noted a public meeting was held on February 24, 2009 and that the meeting was very well attended by citizens with a general interest and residents who live in the project area.

There was discussion on the proposed alternatives and the positive and negative impact of each.

Mr. Oda moved to endorse the letter as presented (noting a spelling error to be corrected), and the motion was seconded by Mr. Bubp. Voice vote, Mr. Spoltman, Aye; Mr. Taylor, Aye; Mr. Oda, Aye; Mr. Bubp, Aye; and Mrs. Franz, Aye. Nay: None.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct it was moved and seconded that the regular meeting be adjourned. With all those present in favor the regular meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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EXHIBIT 'A'

Meeting Notes from City Commission Meeting on February 3, 2009

The overall theme of Alternate B will be pursued with the simple large individual letters of PIQUA as the center piece on the rounded wall. The placement of the wall and signage shall be placed to be viewed by vehicles exiting and continuing along the highway 75. At a minimum, electrical conduit will be installed for future connections to provide up-lighting for the 'Piqua' letters and the use of a center piece holiday tree.

Monotone wildflowers with an edging pattern will be implemented to encourage thoughtful mowing routes. Landscaping to capture four season appeal including evergreens, ornamental grasses, and red-twig dogwoods will be specified. The maintenance of the entire interchange will be presented and approved through the city of Piqua prior to the submittal of any bidding documents.

The outcome of the commission meeting has given us the ability to move forward confidently, resulting in our belief of a successful meeting. The open forum was enjoyable. We hope you weren't there too long after us. We appreciate all your assistance with the project and we look forward to finalize a design already-in-place.

Thank you for your time last night!

Mark Sierschula, ASLA
Landscape Designer

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