

MINUTES

LAKES TO LAND REGIONAL INITIATIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM MONTHLY MEETING

1 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2013
PLEASANT VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER

Roll Call and Master Plan Updates:

- Brad Hopwood, Tamara Buswinka (Arcadia Twp) – finished Future Land Use Map; working on Zoning Plan. Waiting for draft from Tamara.
- Ted Wood, Betsy Evans (Joyfield Twp): Looking at doing an interim ordinance with Board and Planning Commission; finished Cornerstones and Building Blocks
- Melanie Ware (Village of Bear Lake) – finished Cornerstones; having trouble filling Planning Commission vacancies; joining with Bear Lake Township. Cornerstones are done. Jackie Johnson will no longer be representing Bear Lake.
- Bob Peterson (Pleasanton Twp) – waiting for Tamara to give them a draft.
- Al Taylor (Onokama) – we have a Master Plan and trying to hold it together; joint Planning Commission is probably dissolving; still looking for the commonalities between plans such as riparian zones for lake townships; scenic highway designation; fencing variances. Tamara suggested that he give Leah their priorities.
- Denise Blakely offered City of Manistee lighting specs and suggested asking Consumers to put on light shields.
- Bruce Wiedie, Honor – waiting for Tamara and draft
- Sharron May and Monica Schultz (Crystal Lake Twp) waiting for revised Cornerstones and Existing Land Use Map; next step: Future Land Use map; we have had lots of personnel changes.
- Roger Yoder and Denise Blakely (City of Manistee Planning & Zoning) just updating their Master Plan has lighting regs; there are shields that Consumers can put on lights;
- Dennis Holcombe (Gilmore Twp) - waiting for draft Master Plan
- Jeanette May (Bear Lake) – waiting for MP to come back.

A discussion followed about dark skies initiative, what it is, what communities are talking about it (Honor, Arcadia, Crystal Lake). Denise Blakely offered to provide the lighting plan language used in their site plans and contact information for Consumers who can shield streetlights.

Tamara Buswinka updated all the townships that were waiting for their Master Plans to come back. Three quarters of everyone's Master Plans are done - all the analysis, demographics, economic indicators, history, maps, etc. They are waiting for the content of the Cornerstones and Future Land Use Maps. Monica Schultz asked if the new township supervisor, who wants the data, could access the data on our township sooner. There is a dashboard for economic indicators and the for general land use. A general dashboard is on the website. On Tuesdays, Tamara is available to meet.

A discussion followed about importance of stakeholders:

- Al Taylor stressed the importance of stakeholder involvement as the job of leadership team members. "We spent 300 hours on our zoning ordinance to match the Master Plan but when they went to the township and village, they got their heads handed to them".

- The job of the Leadership Team is to engage those people you want to get involved. Who is not engaging? Who's not here? That's where a problem is going to lie.
- Even after involving stakeholders, a lot of things can get derailed.
- Don't turn it over to the consultants. Be actively involved in the zoning ordinances.
- "Best practices" have to be tempered with reality on the ground and realistic for the area. Take small steps.

Master Plan Priority Share Meeting Logistics

The Convention of Communities has been moved to an undisclosed date in the fall. But Leadership Team members will be receiving an Invitation to the Master Plan Priority Share Meeting, Convention of Communities 'prep'.

Date/Time: Thursday, June 27, 2013 6PM – 9PM at the PVCC

Who Attends: Planning Commissioners, Township Board officials (including Zoning Administrator)

Structure/Agenda: 3 hours; synopsis on history, process, power point on Top 5 priorities from each community; overlay of common areas; Q & A; exercise to engage officials in the priorities; networking. Set up: 16 community tables for the presentation

Invitation

- **1st wave:** The Leadership Team will receive an initial invitation to forward to the township (Clerk, Supervisor, or appropriate channel) encouraging full participation of the board, planning commission and zoning administrator; requesting that they put it on their agenda.
- **2nd wave:** Leah will send an invitation from Beckett & Raeder directly to the above emails addresses
- Ask for RSVPs

Objectives

- Sharing among townships
- Township involvement
- Explain purpose of the Convention of Communities (emphasize funding aspect)

Discussion of Outcomes:

- Begin identifying agencies and funding opportunities.
- Better legal review (Example: Charlevoix chapter of MTA communities splitting cost of hiring one of the top Planning & Zoning attorneys in the state and actually saving money.)
- It will be important to emphasize what's in it for them.
- Feed them and inspire them.
- Make them feel invested without pressuring them. Many townships are in crisis mode right now.
- Get them out of their chairs in an exercise i.e. voting on priorities, making some decisions, circulating among each other.
- Leadership Team members should also participate in the process.
- This will have ramifications and precipitate future conversations.
- Make sure the language is inclusive of those communities who already have their Master Plans.

Action Items:

- Forward initial Invitation to the township through Township Supervisor, Clerk or appropriate channel).
- Send list of current email addresses for all the Planning Commissioners and Township Board officials (including Zoning Administrators) to Leah.

Discussion and Clarification of 5 Priorities:

- The 5 Priorities might not be the same as what you walked in with
- The Communities who are coming in who already have their Master Plans may be well beyond the “low hanging fruit” stage. It was suggested to share the list of Priorities, especially with those communities coming in who have been waiting on the sidelines with their completed Master Plans so they can look for commonalities.
- Some communities used the Visioning Session priorities, some used Cornerstones, others deliberately targeted projects that were more regional, such as M-22 Scenic Highway designation, a project-specific Scenic Rural Preservation Plan.
- It may be difficult to think regionally yet. We don’t know what the other priorities are. At the June Meeting we will see where the chips fall.
- What about Quality Zoning as a priority? Is that a project or is that just a given outcome of the L2L process?

Citizen Planner Training

Have a table and information at the June Meeting. It requires a 3 month lead-time, so we need to set date and logistics in July. There are a lot of conflicts in the fall with training for the trainers, etc. Decision to target training for September/October. Kurt Schindler asked that a committee be put together that he will meet with for logistics and setting date. The training can be done in 7 - three-hour sessions, some have done 1-2 Saturdays.

Action Item: Leah will send a Survey Monkey to the same email list for the invitation to Leah to send a Survey Monkey of potential dates and format.

Other Requests:

Request for Agenda 21 talking points. Discussion:

- This is a bottom-up process. We’re not buying into anything. (Brad Hopwood)
- There was a major session at MAP with a professor at law at U of M. Kurt Schindler has a power point and notes and explained why it is not on the Extension website: Agenda 21 is not a treaty or plot to overthrow the world. It was a Convention of Scientists who put together Best Practices for community development, sustainability and all the buzzwords that are now being keyed in on. It says things like you have to have a balanced budget and fire department for your community to be “sustainable”. It was really written for the Third World for using practices that are already being used. Extension, having a research-based university with an extension system that brings that kind of knowledge out there to communities, is listed in Agenda 21 several dozen times in several different contexts. So Extension really doesn’t think it can be viewed as the neutral party that can provide that kind of [neutral] response. That’s why it’s not on the website and won’t be and that is why I am probably not the person to be having this conversation on this topic. (Kurt Schindler)
- Anyone has the right to speak at a meeting but you don’t necessarily have to respond. You just say “Thank you for your input”. You’ve met your obligation and don’t disrupt the meeting. (Denise Blakely)

Request for Clarification of 5 Priorities

- Don’t throw out the baby with the bathwater! Just note how the connection to the Visioning Session, Cornerstones and Building Blocks.
- It’s okay if we leave with different priorities than what you came in with