

Master Plan Meeting  
Monday September 26, 2022  
6-7:30pm

In attendance: Shirley Kay, Chris Lapoint, Wes Friel, Heather Friel, Scott Owen, Lisa Galdikas, Ann Hatfield, Tim Kotas, Debbie Laraway

Reviewed minutes from last meeting.

2020 Census information per township will not be available until spring of 2023. Plan to update Lee Township Master Plan document once those become available. Next meeting will be scheduled after those statistics are received.

The Master Plan was established 5 years ago. The group in attendance reviewed the strategic planning minutes from the November 20, 2019 planning session facilitated by Julie Pioch, MSU Extension, which included brainstorming ideas and suggestions for objectives around the 5 focus areas.

Discussion Notes:

#### Protect Natural Amenities

- Focus remains on ordinance compliance re: blight, auto storage, dangerous buildings.
- Township will continue to offer free dump days for residents to assist with clean-up.
- Township updating signage at Transfer Station.
- PHP work groups to target specific resident needs.
- Beautify Pullman cleaning up creek area to install story walk for students that will include educational information on taking care of the environment.
- County Drain Commission continues its work on clearing creeks and drains.
- Dam repairs successful.
- LSL Board and LSLIA continue to research water quality and lake needs.

#### Improve Roads & Infrastructure

- Road work on main corner (56<sup>th</sup> & 109<sup>th</sup>) to address drainage, curbs, repair current sidewalks to be completed in 2023.
- Township residents passed 3-year road millage to continue to maintain township roads.

#### Improve Access to Services

- PHP offering more services at its Pullman campus; working with Allegan County departments to bring access to services to Pullman. Bi-lingual DHS representative at PHP on Wednesday and Friday.
- West Michigan Ministries (WMM) providing food, clothing, household goods monthly to residents in need.
- Two transportation resources available to residents. Community Action offers seniors rides for essential services like medical appointments on a donation basis. Their # is 269-673-5472 ext. 261. Allegan County Transportation services requires a one-day notice (before Noon). Cost is \$1 one way for seniors in county, \$2 non seniors, and \$5 one way for rides out of the county. Their contact phone # 269-673-4229.

- It was suggested that a sign for disc golf course may help people access this great addition to community.

### Promote Safety & Inclusion

- Priority remains in providing information to community through Pullman Elementary, Linking Center, kiosks at Intercare Health Center and Township office, Township newsletter, FB and website (English & Spanish). Unfortunate set back, the new postmaster has removed bulletin board and township kiosk from post office foyer. Attempts to have it returned unsuccessful.
- Suggestion of an electronic sign for township information. Will look into cost. Central location?
- Safe and affordable housing remains a concern for community (as it does across the country). Families living in dangerous buildings can be addressed through the Dangerous Building Ordinance, though it was discussed that these are delicate and involved situations that require time to resolve. Lack of resources available adds to the difficulty in resolution. Substandard rental units are of high concern. Some residents have shared they are required to sign documents saying they won't report landlord for structural and safety issues in the structure or they will be evicted.
- Ann Hatfield offered to draft a quick survey to use to gather additional information on landlord/rental safety issues. The suggestion is that local non-profits (PHP, WMM) can distribute these over the next few months.
- Suggestion made for non-profits to join local (South Haven, Allegan) Chamber of Commerce which will assist in promoting activities/events they sponsor.
- New Township signs (Working Together for a Better Tomorrow) were donated and installed this year as you enter the township. Two of the signs were stolen.
- With a focus of inclusion and desire to pool resources and work together for a common good, discussion took place around creating new banners (that hang on electrical poles throughout downtown) with the "working together" mantra on it and asking local businesses and non-profits to purchase one that would include their name or logo.

### Economic Development

- Lee Township progressing in securing broadband funding for township project. 900K has been secured to date (total project estimated costs 3-5 million). Continuing to strategize with Bloomingdale Communication on paths to move forward in Lee. Waiting on State to open their Broadband office which will have funding opportunities available to municipalities. Re-mapping of actual services available currently underway.
- Discussion on increase in working from home and home businesses, which re-emphasizes the critical need for reliable and affordable internet service.
- Summer influx of visitors, renters help with local economy and local businesses.
- Concerns remain about lack of any major employer in the area.