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**PINE ISLAND**  
public schools



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## PINE ISLAND COMMUNITY PLANNING TEAM

Meeting Notes: Wednesday, November 14, 2012 – 7:00 PM, EDA Office

### ATTENDANCE

Name	Organization	Present	Name	Organization	Present
Tammy Berg-Beniak	School Dist 255	X	Abraham Algadi	City of Pine Island	X
John Champa	School Dist 255	X	Paul Perry	City of Pine Island	X
Kim Fall	School Dist 255	X	Jerry Vettel	City of Pine Island	X
Rob Warneke	School Dist 255	X	Tom Pyfferoen	Milton Township	X
Karen Doll	Pine Island EDA	X	Dale Thomforde	New Haven Township	X
Troy Kuball	Pine Island EDA	X	Mark Thein	Oronoco Township	X
Rick Keane	Pine Island EDA	X	Richard Miller	Pine Island Township	X
			Patrick Morgan	Roscoe Township	X

### AGENDA

- **Introductions**
  - We went around the table and introduced ourselves.
- **Discussion: Scope and Mission of the Community Planning Team**
  - Chairperson Doll read our mission statement as defined at our last meeting. She asked how formal we wanted our process to be for our team. It was determined that we are a task force, so don't need to have formal minutes and follow formal meeting standard processes. We will take notes at the meetings.
- **Clarify Scope of Community Planning Team:**
  - Doll noted that our work doesn't just deal with the school, but the community as a whole. Our last meeting was primarily a discussion of school needs, but going forward we will be focusing on all areas of the community. Champa said that he'd like to make sure that all 3 groups have a space on the agenda to bring forward project ideas or issues. We can then talk as a group about priorities. Fall agreed, and said that we need to conduct town hall meetings for various projects as one entity working together for the community. Many in the group agreed. Doll showed a table that could possibly be used to cover the areas and current projects. We can use this to prioritize and work together.
  - Doll asked if we should set up a web site that can house all of our information. Fall said that communication and transparency is very important, and having one place to go for information would be very helpful. She suggested the City web site. Algadi will act as collector of our data and make sure all information is posted. He will post agendas, notes and any relevant documentation. He will create a tab on the City of Pine Island web site for all of our information.
  - Doll asked if we should have a media/communications focal point. Since the questions could cover any of the topics (school, city EDA, etc) it may be best to have Doll as chair field questions and direct people to the right experts on the topic. If it is a general question, she will cover it.

- Doll noted that with the election, we will have a new mayor and some new council members. She suggested that we may want to get the new mayor involved as soon as possible rather than wait until January. Algadi will talk with Rod Steele, incoming mayor about joining the meetings.
  
- **P I School Facility Evaluation Timeline:**
  - Champa took the group through a facilities evaluation timeline that the board recently approved. Warneke added that he's looking to the group to identify where Pine Island is heading and next spring, when early childhood services is full and we have to either build space or turn away preschool students we will have some idea of future plans. Fall noted that part of the school's process includes gathering community input. She reiterated that she'd like to see town hall meetings to gather stakeholder views that are run by the community planning team rather than individual projects/groups. The focus should be where the community is going, not just an individual project. If we have separate meetings, the community members will be confused as to what our priorities are and will question whether we are working together or not. Algadi agreed and will look into how we can pull the library, school and other meetings together.
  
- **Report of Meeting with SMIF:**
  - Beniak gave an update on the meeting with the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation. A group of 5 went to Owatonna to meet with Tim Penny. The meeting introduced questions about bioscience offerings and resulted in a plan to bring IBM, Mayo, University of Minnesota-Rochester, Winona State University, Rochester Community/Technical College, and representatives from the community of Austin together to discuss the opportunity to offer bioscience classes. This meeting will be held December 4<sup>th</sup>. The question then came up to determine if we should have a regional education initiative that results in a corridor of bioscience/education. The five that participated in the SMIF meeting will attend the December meeting on our behalf.
  
- **P I Referendum History:**
  - Champa and Algadi put together a document outlining the history of past referendums. They took us through the booklet.
  
- **Why is a facility important?**
  - This should read "is a facility important?" since that is one of the questions that we will need to answer as we proceed. Doll mentioned that there is a community value workshop that may be beneficial down the road. Champa noted that this is a key question...is the school important when people are deciding whether to move here, build here, develop a business here. Warneke mentioned that it seems to be the backbone of a community.
  
- **Type of facility needed**
  - This question really can't be answered until we determine if a school facility is important.
  
- **Location of facility**
  - There was some discussion at a very high level about this and how Elk Run development impacts this. Doll showed a map of potential paths for Cnty Rd. 125.

• **Next Steps: Action Plan & Timeline:**

Action Items	Assigned To	Deadline
gather information regarding the importance of a school facility and what it means for a community. Research other communities and determine how schools impact growth.	Rob, Tammy, Karen to talk with Rod Steele	
community input – priorities and where the community sees Pine Island heading	Kim, Karen and a rep from the city	
identify how the facilities are used	John, Kim, Tammy, Rob	
SMIF meeting in December	Tammy, Karen, Jerry, Rob, John	

**DECISIONS MADE**

- Ms. Beniak will take the notes at our next meeting.

**NEXT MEETING**

- **Wednesday, December 12th\_th at 7:00 p.m. in the EDA Office**  
**Future dates: Jan 9th, Feb 13th, Mar 13th, April 10<sup>th</sup>**

*Notes submitted by: Kim Fall*