



MILTON • TOWNSHIPS • NEW HAVEN



ORONOCO • PINE ISLAND • ROSCOE

### PINE ISLAND COMMUNITY PLANNING TEAM

Meeting Notes: Wednesday, January 8, 2014 – 7:00 PM, EDA Office

#### ATTENDANCE

Name	Organization	Present	Name	Organization	Present
Tammy Berg-Beniak	School Dist 255	X	Rod Steele	City of Pine Island	X
John Champa	School Dist 255	X	Jerry Vettel	City of Pine Island	X
Kim Fall	School Dist 255	X	Madge Alberts	Milton Township	X
Rob Warneke	School Dist 255	X	Dale Thomforde	New Haven Township	
Karen Doll	Pine Island EDA	X	Mark Thein	Oronoco Township	
Troy Kuball	Pine Island EDA		Richard Miller	Pine Island Township	X
Rick Keane	Pine Island EDA		Gale Hoven	Roscoe Township	
			Joel Knox	Park Board Chair	X

#### AGENDA

##### • Updates - Townships

- Oronoco Township – Mark Thein sent an email to CPT members stating he was unable to attend due to another meeting, so there were no additional updates.
- Milton Township – One person has filed for the Township Supervisor position. The precinct caucus scheduled for next month has to be changed due to a conflict.
- Pine Island Township – Richard Miller said that things seem to be going fine right now, and that there is nothing new to report.
- Roscoe Township – No one from Roscoe Township was in attendance.
- New Haven Township – No one from New Haven Township was in attendance.

##### • Updates - City

- **Mayor Steele** reported the City has been moving forward on a number of fronts but that in general things have quieted down. Cindy Oelkers will be retiring as the City's Deputy Clerk in March and the process of searching for a replacement to fill the position is occurring and the position will be filled soon.
- Council member Nick Novak has stepped down because he has purchased a home and relocated outside the city limits. A new Council member will be appointed at the January meeting.
- The City is working with Olmsted County and has asked them to move the timetable ahead for constructing 125th Street so that the new road would be completed when the elementary school opens, if the referendum passes in May. The County intended to build the entire road extending from the new Elk Run Interchange west to County Road 3 in 2018-19. The City is investigating the potential for low interest financing through a federal USDA program to help reduce project costs. The bridge at the Zumbro River crossing accounts for a major portion of the \$7+ million project.
- All properties needed for right-of-way have been acquired for the East Frontage Road Project. Engineering and final design work is in progress.

- The City and Cheese Festival Committee are working together and considering moving the Cheese Festival to a new location in and around the flood buy-out area. Traffic would be re-routed from County 11 to 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave NE and 2<sup>nd</sup> St NE which improves emergency situations, eliminates routing semis through downtown and residential areas, and allows customer access to Main Street businesses. A plan for the flood buy-out area is still emerging, but most agree that a viable use for the buy-out property would be a community park that would provide a large area for community gatherings, flea markets, etc. Parking and infrastructure would need to be added in the future.
  
- **EDA** – Karen reported that the EDA has been working for several months with some interesting business prospects that are showing good potential to locate in Pine Island in 2014. The EDA has been finalizing the new website and community brochures to market the City.

The EDA has been facilitating Image Committee activities. The Image Committee continues to meet bi-monthly and work on a number of projects. They are currently planning a Luminary Ski/Snowshoe Event for February 8th and a new Artisan Cheese Market at the 2014 Cheese Festival. They continue to fundraise to support and operate the Borrow A Bike program which will again open May-October in 2014.

- **Van Horn Library** – The adult reading program, ‘Hot Reads for Cold Nights’ has begun. It has been fun, and is going well. On February 2nd, One Town, One Title will begin. A book titled “Patty’s Journey” will be coupled with a variety of related events that tie into today’s foster care systems including a movie night & field trip to Owatonna’s orphanage which was the backdrop to the book. The Library was awarded a \$1,000 grant to cover the costs of the program.

Morgan is working on an application for a grant that would provide free passes to various parks and venues throughout the area. They are asking the Pine Island Golf Course and City Swimming Pool to participate. The Board is currently looking to fill a board member position. The Library is currently promoting a fundraiser that features Jeanine Barringer’s artwork in greeting cards.

The Library Board, School Board, Mayor Steele and Jerry Vettel will be meeting at Pine Island Schools on January 20th to explore the possibility for the public library to use space in the school’s existing elementary library for a few years, if the referendum passes and a new elementary school is constructed.

- **Park Board** – Joel said the Park Board meets next Tuesday, so there is nothing new to report at this time. There was general discussion about potential uses of some identified parcels that are not currently developed within the community for recreational uses.

- **Updates - School**

- Pine Island School staff members were invited to be presenters at the TIES Conference, and will also be giving two presentations at the MSBA Conference. School was closed for the last two days due to cold weather.

- **School Referendum**

- **Presentation** - Tammy and School Board Members shared a draft of the presentation that is being prepared to present to community members and encourage input and feedback from the CPT on content.
- **Plan for Reaching Community Members** - The Board is planning to pull together additional information during the next month and to begin making presentations to community groups and members in March.
- **Jan 12th Presentation** - The School has been asked to give a presentation at Saint Paul Lutheran Church on Sunday, January 12 during the adult forum time.

- **CPT Discussion**

- There was a general discussion about the role members of the CPT might play in support of passing the referendum.

## **NEXT MEETING**

- **March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the EDA Office**

**Note Taker** - \_\_\_\_\_

*Notes submitted by: Karen Doll*