



MILTON • TOWNSHIPS • NEW HAVEN

**PINE ISLAND**  
public schools



ORONOCO • PINE ISLAND • ROSCOE



## PINE ISLAND COMMUNITY PLANNING TEAM

Meeting Notes: Wednesday, February 12, 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		Jerry Vettel	City of Pine Island	X
Kim Fall	School Dist 255	X	Madge Alberts	Milton Township	
Rob Warneke	School Dist 255	X	Dale Thomforde	New Haven Township	
Karen Doll	Pine Island EDA	X	Mark Thein	Oronoco Township	X
Troy Kuball	Pine Island EDA		Richard Miller	Pine Island Township	X
Rick Keane	Pine Island EDA		Gale Hoven	Roscoe Township	
Morgan Hansen	Pine Island Library	X	Greg Houdek	Park Board Chair	X

### AGENDA

- The meeting started at 7:04 p.m. and began with introductions as it was the first meeting for Greg Houdek of the Park Board.
- **Updates - Townships**
  - Oronoco Township – Mark Thein from Oronoco Township spoke about Fire Protection issues within his township. Most of the homes are more than 5 miles from the nearest responding Fire Department which puts these homes as a Level 10 as far as insurance ratings (which is the most expensive rating). Pine Island Fire attended most recent meeting and provided a proposal to put a new Fire Hall within the Township (at Township expense). The Town Board was intrigued by the idea but hopes to pursue the idea of combining the existing Oronoco Fire Department with PI Fire – which would alleviate most of Oronoco Township’s problems and may also help the City of Oronoco and the City of Pine Island with coverage.
  - Milton Township – Karen Doll read an update from Madge Alberts of Milton Township – they are researching whether they can appoint a Treasurer instead of electing a new one because they are concerned with an inexperienced person winning the position at election. They are also looking forward to the school board speaking about the building referendum at their Township Hall on April 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - Pine Island Township – Richard Miller from Pine Island Township reported that they are considering doing their own zoning because the County’s rules are too restrictive on building permits. If they don’t do this, he feels they may never see a new house built within the Township. He also spoke of concerns with lack of Sheriff’s Deputies in Townships due to fact that most Sheriff’s cars are located in Pine Island or Wanamingo.
  - Roscoe Township – No one from Roscoe Township was in attendance.
  - New Haven Township – No one from New Haven Township was in attendance.

- **Updates - City**

- Rod Steele spoke about hoping to approve the official map of 125<sup>th</sup> St. on Tuesday night. The City has decided to move most Cheese Fest activities to the area South of the Creamery building – with the rides taking place on the CR11 and traffic being diverted around the area. The hope is that this will provide more business opportunities downtown. The City has also completed purchasing all properties needed for the construction of the East Frontage Road and Roundabout. The City will be working with the Park Board (Greg Houdek confirmed) to auction off the unique building components from the historic Bushman house and using the proceeds to kickstart the pool building fund. Bids will be let in May for the frontage road project and construction should start in June. Jan McNallan is the new chief election judge and the City has hired Andrew Taylor as the new City Clerk.
- **EDA** – Karen Doll reported that she has been working with the City and Olmsted County to seek federal funding for construction of 125<sup>th</sup> Street. She is also working on acquiring grants to help better “brand” the community. As is typical with small town businesses, there are issues trying to hold on to their customer base – which is especially difficult in a bedroom community where many have opportunities to shop in Rochester and many are technology advanced and have opportunities to shop online. The Image Committee is working on new entrance signs. The recent Luminary Walk was received very well and will likely be held again in the future.
- **Van Horn Library** – Morgan Hansen reported that they are in the middle of a successful One Town/One Title project. They will be taking a charter bus to visit an old State School in Owatonna and have had some great discussions about orphanages. She and other area librarians will be presenting to the Olmsted and Dodge County Boards in coming weeks.
- **Park Board** – Greg Houdek reported that they didn’t have a quorum for their most recent meeting but are looking forward to the Bushman House auction to raise funds for the pool project.

- **Updates - School**

- Tammy Berg Beniak spoke about the school officials having recently had a legislative breakfast where they discussed funding/facility inequities in districts due to actions at the Legislature and concerns with the Bullying Bill. She spoke of how they have two students fighting Leukemia and she is proud of how the students have responded – volunteering to help however they can. The school has had 5 snow/cold days as of today but have enough built-in that it is not a concern as far as falling short of student hours as of yet.

- **School Referendum**

- Rob Warneke and Kim Fall reported that the Facility Committees are working on ideas. After visiting area schools, the board has decided to go with the Wendel Firm to design the proposed new K-4 school because they are better suited to handle the idea of replicating ideas that have already been tried and proven to be effective. This will result in cost savings also. Tammy Berg Beniak added that the Review and Comment goes to the State tomorrow and the Board will pass the Bond Resolution at their next meeting. Rob commented that the Board has been very busy working on presentations and plans. All agreed that 1,500 Yes Votes is the goal to get this referendum passed.

- **CPT Discussion**

- It was discussed and agreed that this group should invite the City of Oronoco to join in on our meetings (if they have interest) and continue to meet on a Monthly basis. Richard Miller offered that his Township will approve/deny his continued involvement at their annual meeting in March.

**NEXT MEETING**

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

**Note taker will be – Madge Alberts**

*Notes submitted by: Mark Thein*