



PINE ISLAND COMMUNITY PLANNING TEAM

Meeting Notes: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 – 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 Twp	X
Rob Warneke	School Dist 255	X	Dale Thomforde	New Haven Twp	X
Karen Doll	Pine Island EDA	X	Mark Thein	Oronoco Twp	X
Troy Kuball	Pine Island EDA		Richard Miller	Pine Island Twp	X
Rick Keane	Pine Island EDA		Gale Hoven	Roscoe Twp	
Morgan Hansen	Van Horn Library	X	Theresa Carlson	Park Board	X
Kevin McDermott	City of Oronoco		Courtney Schaefer	Chamber Commerce	X
			Mark McGlinch	Resident	X

AGENDA

1. Call to Order – 7:03 p.m.

2. Township Updates

- **New Haven Township** – Board of Audit was held yesterday and it passed. The Township has worked on next year's budget; they are in good financial shape at this time. The Township has contracted for road maintenance and town hall ground maintenance. Olmsted County is considering a new Subsoil Treatment System Ordinance; a public hearing is scheduled February 17 at the County Government Center. If the ordinance is adopted, a septic system compliance inspection will be required for all categories of building permits.
 - **Milton Township** – Milton's audit has been completed. Township Board considered lowering the levy because of recent tax impacts, but decided the tax relief would be minimal so not to change it. They will budget more funds for road maintenance. A feed lot battle is raging on in Dodge County which could affect farmers greatly.
 - **Oronoco Township**- Township has approved an orderly annexation agreement with the City of Oronoco. In the future, the City will pay the Township 4% of appraised property value upon annexation.
 - **Pine Island Township** – Richard reported on a Zip Rail meeting where it was stated, "if the project is not stopped within the Tier 1 process, there won't be a way to stop it." The opposition group is open to light rail.
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3. School Updates:

- The Governor's budget proposes early education for 4 year olds, which would count in the State's formula as .5 funding. Tammy talked about the space and funding issues this would cause for schools. The current system provides for a select few schools to receive \$3 psf for building maintenance, but many schools (including Pine Island) receive only .58 cents psf. There was also discussion about taxation equalization in the rural areas. All concerts and special school events are now posted on the school's website. A video clip showing construction progress at the new school was played which is also available on the website.
- John discussed an article written by Jan Fisher and published in the News-Record last week which calling into question the working relationship of the School and City. John emphasized, "On every occasion, the school & City have worked very closely and extremely well. There has been cooperation between both organizations." He also talked about the 2015 Minnesota School Board Association Convention. Pine Island Schools was selected to give 3 separate presentations. Communities present at the presentation about the referendum process were very interested in the Community Planning Team concept and how this community had worked together to pass the referendum.

4. City Updates

- **City of Oronoco** - No report.
- **City of Pine Island** – A new program is being implemented by the City called Pillars of Pine Island at the next Council meeting where recognition will be given to outstanding citizens and businesses for their service to the community. The City is working to resolve issues concerning the selection process for Fire Chief and has reached out to townships for input.

Mayor Steele discussed the reasons for moving Cheese Fest this year. It is primarily because First Avenue SE will be a construction zone for the next two years which will cause issues for re-routing detours. The southwest street project is to be completed in 2016. A presentation will be given on Feb 21st for a regional Park 'n Ride to seek funding from the Southern MN Initiative Foundation.

- **Park Board** – Theresa Carlson showed a layout plan for moving this year's Cheese Festival to Trailhead Park. The Park Board is looking at locating community garden plots in the flood buy-out area previously owned by Kunderts. A volunteer is needed to oversee this project. There are also discussions around moving the horseshoe pits to the area where the Waletzko home used to be located.

The Swimming Pool Committee is looking for people to get involved. Janet Pike has offered to take over the chair position. Work done by the previous committee will need to be re-evaluated since some of the information gathered is a couple of years old. New trees have been planted which will be moved to parks and other areas as needed. Wendell Zwart has offered to donate an area along the south branch of the Zumbro River to the City, if it agrees to create a trail for horseback riding. The Park Board is discussing possible locations for a dog park and tennis courts. A water source and parking will be needed for the dog park. The Park Board is seeking ideas from community members.

- **Van Horn Library** – The One Town, One Title project is underway and going well. Free copies of the book titled "The Book of Unknown Americans" have been distributed - they are giving away lots of them. The month-long program includes an Open House, Genealogy Workshop, a Family History Collage Workshop, Panel Discussion, Book Discussion, and a film showing in Zumbrota of "Sweet Land". Grants funded all project events except for the cost of the books.
- **EDA** – A grant was awarded by the Rural Sustainable Development Partnership (RSDP) for students from the University of MN to conduct applied research for Pine Island and Oronoco to study the potential for wastewater management collaboration. A hotel market study is underway. The EDA continues to work with several businesses concerning expansion and start-up projects.

5. Discussion Items

- Mark McGlinch attended the meeting to make suggestions and discuss ideas on how to bring more people to Pine Island. He suggested capitalizing on the Douglas Trail by creating a smaller version of Rochester's 'Thursday's on First' at Trailhead Park. There was discussion about promoting the Trail and community. QR codes were discussed along with vending machines and concessions to raise money. Mark offered to help with marketing and promotions for this summer's events.
- Courtney Schaefer told the group about plans for monthly car club gatherings one Saturday per month throughout the summer. These events will take place in Trailhead Park and will include food vendors, live bands, and activities for the kids. Updates will be on the Chamber website. Dates: May 16, June 27, July 18, August 15, and September 19. No admission fee. They are still working out details concerning the liquor sales. The Chamber is also working on the City Wide Garage Sale in April, a 2-page Pine Island promotion in the Rochester Area Visitor, and Flower Baskets.
- Jerry Vettel asked the group what the official name for Trailhead Park should be because he would like to work on new signage. The group concurred it should be called "Pine Island Trailhead Park".
- There was some discussion about the Kwik Trip intersection.

6. Next meeting: March 11 at 7 pm at the EDA Office. Notetaker: Madge Alberts

Notes submitted by: Karen Doll