

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF UNION
Planning Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes

A regular meeting of the Charter Township of Union Planning Commission was held on March 21, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the Union Township Hall.

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Present:

Albrecht, Buckley, Gross, LaBelle, Lapp, McDonald, Shingles, Squattrito, and Thering

Others Present

Rodney Nanney, Community and Economic Development Director; Peter Gallinat, Zoning Administrator; Tera Green, Administrative Assistant

Approval of Agenda

Buckley moved Gross supported to approve the agenda as presented. Vote: Ayes: 9. Nays: 0. Motion Carried

Approval of Minutes

Gross moved LaBelle supported to approve the regular meeting as presented. Vote: Ayes: 9. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Correspondence / Reports/ Presentations

- A. Board of Trustees updates by Thering – gave an update on the Board of Trustees meeting held on March 8th.
- B. ZBA updates by Buckley – gave an update on the ZBA meeting held March 1st.

Public Comment

Open 7:10 p.m.

No comments were offered.

Closed 7:10 p.m.

New Business

A. Election of Officers

Chairman Squattrito opened and invited nominations for each officer position. After each nomination period was closed by the Chair, the following actions were taken:

a. Chair

Buckley moved Thering supported to appoint Commissioner Squattrito as Chair per the Planning Commission bylaws. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Albrecht, Buckley, Gross, LaBelle, Lapp, McDonald, Shingles, and Thering. Nays: 0. Abstained: Squattrito. Motion carried.

b. Vice-Chair

Shingles moved **Gross** supported to appoint Commissioner Buckley as Vice Chair per the Planning Commission bylaws. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Albrecht, Gross, LaBelle, Lapp, McDonald, Shingles, Squatrito, and Thering. Nays: 0. Abstained: Buckley. Motion carried.**

c. Secretary

Buckley moved **Thering** supported to appoint Commissioner LaBelle as Secretary per the Planning Commission bylaws. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Albrecht, Buckley, Gross, Lapp, McDonald, Shingles, Squatrito, and Thering. Nays: 0. Abstained: LaBelle. Motion carried.**

d. Vice-Secretary

Buckley moved **Thering** supported to appoint Commissioner Albrecht as Vice Secretary per the Planning Commission bylaws. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Buckley, Gross, LaBelle, Lapp, McDonald, Shingles, Squatrito, and Thering. Nays: 0. Abstained: Albrecht. Motion carried.**

e. ZBA Representative

LaBelle moved **Gross** supported to reappoint Commissioner Buckley as the Planning Commission Liaison to the ZBA. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Albrecht, Gross, LaBelle, Lapp, McDonald, Shingles, Squatrito, and Thering. Nays: 0. Abstained: Buckley. Motion carried.**

B. Master Plan Update - Discussion

a. Introduction by Staff

b. What do we want our Township to look/feel/be like “over the horizon” in the future? (desired outcomes for the Township over the next 10-20 years

i. Review the adopted Board of Trustees “Global Ends” policies.

ii. Exercise: *Imagine that it is ten years from today and you are flying over the Mt. Pleasant area, including the Township. What specifically will you have wanted to see accomplished or in place at the time as you look down over the community? How about after 20 years?*

c. Discuss Planning Commission priorities – questions to consider:

i. What are the problems? What don’t we want to have happen, or what are we trying to make better?

ii. What are our desired outcomes for the Community? What specifically do we want to have happen?

iii. What are we missing?

Nanney introduced the Master Plan Update process and proposed that the Commissioners participate in an exercise as a group or individually with the Board of Trustees “Global Ends” policies in mind.

The Commissioners discussed the following questions as a group. A summary of commissioner comments on the following questions are included below in the bullet point lists:

What do we want our Township to look/feel/be like “over the horizon” in the future (desired outcomes for the Township over the next 10-20 years)

Exercise: Imagine that it is ten years from today and you are flying over the Mt. Pleasant area, including the Township. What specifically will you have wanted to see accomplished or in place at the time as you look down over the community? How about after 20 years?

- Wider, well-lit pathways
- Active biking and walking
- Safe lit areas for work and play
- Connecting pathways
- Recreational hiking and/or walking
- Focus highly on accessibility in the parks and trails
- Charging stations
- Relevant housing inventory
- Assuring that we have commercial and residential property that’s appealing to people moving here
- Explore renewable energy structures in residential areas
- An area for pop up events, retail, food trucks
- Take a consciousness look at the character of our industrial zoning. Help to open up opportunities for more advance manufacturing
- Examples from other communities of blended zoning that works well

What are the problems? What don’t we want to have happen, or what are we trying to make better?

- Re-evaluate the Township’s stance on new industries such as cannabis shops
- More practicable public transportation
- Telling developers that they cannot develop in a spot where there is no development

What are our desired outcomes for the Community? What specifically do we want to have happen?

- Remaining relevant and vibrant
- Position ourselves to be competitive in growth
- Provide more amenities to bring development in

Extended Public Comments

Open: 8:25 p.m.

No comments were offered

Closed 8:26 p.m.

Final Board Comment

No comments were offered

Adjournment – Chairman Squattrito adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

(Recorded by Tera Green)



Doug LaBelle – Secretary
Tera Albrecht – Vice Secretary