

**Hastings Charter Township
Barry County
Rutland Charter Township
Carlton Township
City of Hastings
Joint Planning Alliance**

**Draft Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2011**

Members Present: Miner, Medendorp, Carpenter, Wiswell, Haywood, Jasperse, Mansfield, Warren, Phillips, Redman, Brown, McManus, Carr.

Members Absent: None.

Ex-Officio Members Present: Byrnes.

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Geiger.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Carr.

Carr led the JPA members in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Brown informed the Alliance that Phillips had been appointed by Hastings Charter Township to replace Lenz as a representative on the JPA due to conflicting demands with Lenz's schedule.

Motion by Carr, second by Miner to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2011 meeting of the Joint Planning Alliance as submitted, and to receive and place on file the agenda for the minutes of the April 20, 2011 meeting of the Rutland Township Planning Commission, the agenda for the May 18, 2011 meeting of the Rutland Township Planning Commission, and the minutes of the June 6, 2011 meeting of the City of Hastings Planning Commission.

Motion carried.

Motion by Redman, second by Brown to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting as mailed.

Motion carried.

Carr asked for comments from the public.

Dennis Percy questioned how residents in the Township could dispose of small amounts of yard debris. Percy stated that he knew that the City picked up such debris several times per year, but that some Township residents had no means to dispose of such material. Redman stated that compostable material and many other types of material could be transported to Bob Taylor's facilities on Center Road for disposal. Redman stated that Taylor did not charge for disposal.

Percy stated that the condition of Riverside Cemetery was deteriorating. Percy stated that cemeteries along with public libraries were an important indicator of the quality of a community. Percy questioned if Riverside cemetery was a governmentally owned cemetery or if the City might take over maintenance of the cemetery. Mansfield stated that the Riverside Cemetery was a privately owned and operated cemetery. Mansfield stated that the Riverside Cemetery Board had previously asked the City to assume ownership of the cemetery and operate the cemetery. Mansfield stated that the City did not have adequate funds on hand to operate the cemetery, and that a dedicated millage for operation of the cemetery had been placed before the voters twice in the recent past and had failed both times. Wiswell stated that a strong "champion" for the cemetery operating millage was needed to advocate on behalf of the millage's passage.

Carr asked those present to report on activities in their respective jurisdictions.

McManus stated that while the Barry County Planning Department was very busy at the current time, there were currently no projects in the Joint Planning Area under review.

Mansfield stated that the City's Planning Commission continued to work on amendments to the City's downtown zoning district ordinances, and to work on an ordinance to regulate activities related to the production and distribution of medical marijuana.

Haywood stated that the Rutland Township Planning Commission was modifying their ordinance related to accessory structures. Haywood stated that a recent matter related to the construction of a gazebo had brought concerns to light. Carr stated that Rutland's Code was being modified to grant the Zoning Board of Appeals the ability to approve certain accessory structures instead of the Township's Planning Commission.

Jasperse questioned if the restaurant project near the day care facility in Rutland Township along M-43 / M-37 west of the City limits was moving ahead. Carr stated that it was, and that the developer was working with the Township to resolve the last outstanding matters related to the project.

Carr reported that Rutland Township was still awaiting the development of an urban services agreement prior to further consideration of the Joint Land Use Plan or the Joint Zoning Overlay.

Mansfield stated that copies of the resolutions indicating support for the concept outline for the urban services agreement had now been received from all of the jurisdictions participating on the JPA, and distributed to the JPA members.

Mansfield stated that Gerald Fisher had been asked to proceed with the development of the agreements as envisioned in the concept outline for an urban services agreement. Mansfield stated that Fisher had suggested that the first step in this process be the preparation of an outline of potential legal issues or questions related to the agreements. Mansfield stated that Fisher had suggested that he (Fisher) prepare such an outline for review by the City's and Township's attorneys. Mansfield stated that he and Carr had authorized Fisher to prepare such an outline several weeks earlier, but that he had not yet received it. Mansfield stated that he would contact Fisher in the morning to determine the status of the outline. Carr stated that Fisher had strongly encouraged the parties to identify any potential legal concerns early in the process of development of the agreements so that they could be addressed early in the process.

Brown stated that the JPA Education Committee had nothing to report.

Carr introduced discussion regarding the list of work tasks to be accomplished by the JPA in 2011. Consensus of the JPA was to reinvigorate efforts to promote the use of the USEPA Brownfield Site Assessment Grant funds. Byrnes to work with Hart and Mansfield on this effort in the coming months. Mansfield explained the process the City was considering with the Technical Energy Performance Group for the installation of energy saving HVAC and lighting equipment at City Hall and the DPS garage. Mansfield explained the funds stemming from the energy savings resulting from the installation of the new equipment would be used to pay for the installation cost of the equipment. Mansfield stated that TEPG would enter into a performance contract with the City guaranteeing that the projected net savings would occur. Mansfield stated that if the project was successful, the City would likely extend the same program to other City facilities, and that it would likely be available for other units of government as well.

Geiger arrived at 6:07 p.m.

Byrnes volunteered to contact the United Way and local scout groups to see if they could assist with projects at the Riverside Cemetery.

Carr asked for comments from the public. No public comments were forwarded.

Mayor May stated that the Boy Scouts were currently providing volunteer assistance at the Cemetery.

Carr asked for additional comments from the members of the JPA.

Carr stated that Hope Township was currently upgrading their Master Plan. Carr stated that he would be contacting the City to determine if activities in the City should be reflected in the Hope Township Plan. Carr stated that he would also contact McManus to discuss trails in the region and to ensure that the Township's Plan was consistent with the County's Plan.

Carr asked for additional comments from the members of the JPA. No additional comments from the members of the JPA were forwarded.

Motion by Redman, second by McManus to adjourn at 6:30 p.m.

Motion carried.

Submitted by:

Jeff Mansfield
Secretary