

**Mikado Township Planning Commission Meeting Minutes and  
2023 Master Plan and Recreation Plan Public Hearing**

December 7, 2023

**Present:** Steve Stevens, Carrie Mullins, James Ostby, Bill Spunar

**Absent:** Steve Sanderson

**Call to Order:** 6:01 PM

Pledge

**Motion** to suspend meeting and open Public Hearing made by Mullins, seconded by Ostby, the Ayes have it, motion passes.

**Public Hearing called at 6:02 PM**

Secretary Mullins read the following:

*In accordance with the Michigan Planning Enabling Act and requirements of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Mikado Township is holding a public hearing on its 2023 Master Plan and 2024 Recreation Plan.*

There were 5 members of the audience and a call was made for public comment.

**Public Comment:**

Mary Harmon (433 E. F-30, Mikado, MI 48745) asked if the Recreation Plan would make us eligible for grants. The PC answered Yes.

No other comments were proffered.

**Motion** to close the Public Hearing made by Mullins, seconded by Spunar, the Ayes have it, motion passes.

**Motion** to end suspension on the Planning Commission meeting made by Mullins, seconded by Spunar, the Ayes have it, motion passes at 6:06 PM.

**Planning Commission meeting called back into session at 6:06 PM.**

**Discussion:**

Secretary Mullins mentioned that Craig Ostby is listed as the Zoning Administrator and while he is no longer the ZA, his name being in the Master Plan is a non issue as he was present for the majority of the work done on the Master and Rec plans.

**Motion** to approve a Resolution of Adoption and Recommendation of the 2023 Mikado Township Master Plan was made by Mullins, seconded by Spunar, all present voted Aye, motion passes.

**Motion** to approve a Resolution of Adoption and Recommendation of the 2024 Mikado Township Recreation Plan was made by Mullins, seconded by Spunar, all present voted Aye, motion passes.

Secretary Mullins will pass on these resolutions and recommendations to the Township Board for approval and that will conclude the planning commission's work on the Master and Recreation Plans.

## **Regular Business:**

**Motion** to accept the meeting minutes from September 7, 2023 made by Mullins, seconded by Ostby, the Ayes have it, motion passes.

## **Discussion:**

Quarterly meeting dates were set:

March 7, 2024; June 6, 2024; September 5, 2024; and December 5, 2024

Then it was decided to ask the Township Board to approve monthly meetings for the purpose of reworking our Zoning Ordinance. All dates are to be the first Thursday of each month except for July as that would fall on the fourth; July's meeting will be July 11<sup>th</sup>. All times are set at 6 pm. All meetings will be held at the Civic Center.

## **The 2024 Mikado Twp. Planning Commission work sessions and meetings are thus:**

January 4, 2024

February 1, 2024

March 7, 2024 – Quarterly Meeting

April 4, 2024

May 2, 2024

June 6, 2024 – Quarterly Meeting

July 11, 2024

August 1, 2024

September 5, 2024 – Quarterly Meeting

October 3, 2024

November 7, 2024

December 5, 2024 – Quarterly Meeting

## Things to note:

Supervisor Harmon mentioned that in order to access the Township's new attorney, Tim Freel, we are to go through Supervisor Harmon. Mr. Freel has expertise in zoning so will be an asset as the Planning Commission moves forward.

As the Planning Commission works on the zoning ordinance, we should think about three things, 1) reduction and clarification, 2) liability to the township and 3) the needs of Mikado. We don't have to reinvent the wheel; there are many other completed zoning ordinances with sections that fit Mikado's particular area, population and needs; research will need to be conducted.

Secretary Mullins will try to keep the citizenry informed of changes to the zoning ordinance by posting a working copy of the ZO on the website with changes in red. The hope is to post an updated document quarterly.

Finally, for the work session on January 4<sup>th</sup>, the Planning Commission will be starting with Article 3 – General Provisions and we'll see how far we get. The PC members are to review the sections on their own time and come prepared to discuss and make changes as needed.

**Motion** to adjourn made by Mullins, seconded by Spunar, the Ayes have it, motion passes.

**Adjournment:** 7:43 PM

**Next Meeting:** January 4, 2024 at 6:00 PM at the Mikado Civic Center