

# **MINUTES**

Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

Full Commission Meeting

Tuesday, October 16, 2018 9:30 a.m.

Kinexus

499 W. Main Street, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

## **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Hanson, Don, Chair, Van Buren County Commissioner  
Freehling, Teri Sue, Vice Chair, Berrien County Commissioner  
Akinwale, Yemi, Treasurer, Berrien County Representative  
Preston, Linda, Secretary, Cass County Representative  
Gundersen, Kristen, Alternate Secretary, Berrien County Representative  
Remus, Richard, Alternate Treasurer, Berrien County Representative  
Cook, Barb, Past Chair, Cass County Representative  
Curran, Jim, Berrien County Commissioner  
Doroh, Kurt, Van Buren County Commissioner  
Durm Hiatt, Marge, Berrien County Representative  
Fette, Dan, Berrien County Representative  
Foerster, David, Van Buren County Representative  
Hanson, Sandra, Van Buren County Representative  
Pantaleo, Paul, Berrien County Representative  
Payne, Gloria, Berrien County Representative  
Ryman, Don, Berrien County Representative  
Schueneman, James, Berrien County Representative  
Scott, Ezra, Berrien County Commissioner  
Stauffer, Dick, Berrien County Representative  
Stover, Jim, Berrien County Representative

## **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Burr, Robert, Van Buren County Representative  
Chickering, Bill, Berrien County Commissioner  
DeLong, Don, Cass County Representative  
Laylin, Leon, Cass County Representative  
Radtke, Jeff, Van Buren County Representative  
Ruzick, Daniel, Van Buren County Representative  
Sayer, James, Cass County Citizen Representative  
Ziliak, Robert, Cass County Commissioner

## **STAFF PRESENT:**

John Egelhaaf, Executive Director  
Patrice Rose, Office Manager

## **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Donnie Meeks, Berrien County Commissioner, Alternate for Bill Chickering

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Don Hanson called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Office Manager, Patrice Rose took roll and a quorum was present.

## 2. ACCEPTANCE AND/OR REVISION OF CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Meeting Agenda\*
- b. Minutes of Commission Meeting, \*
- c. Chairman's Report
- d. Treasurer's Report\*
- e. Executive Director's Report\*

### ACCEPTANCE AND/OR REVISION OF MEETING AGENDA

Chair Hanson presented the Agenda, requesting that the Executive Director's Report be removed from the Consent Agenda to allow Director Egelhaaf to present the report. Yemi Akinwale moved to **"APPROVE THE REMOVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA."** All in favor "Aye", Ayes 21, and Nays 0. The motion carried

Chair Hanson asked if there were any suggested changes to the agenda, **"EZRA SCOTT MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA WITH THE ADDITION OF ITEM 3.5 RPI RESOLUTION."** All in favor "Aye", Ayes 21, and Nays 0. The motion carried.

### 2.c. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Egelhaaf gave an overview of his report, focusing on the "15 Under 15 Award," that SWMPC recently received. The award was resented to dynamic small businesses with less than 15 employees that are making a difference in the community. Egelhaaf also summarized his participation in the McCrystal Group Executive Leadership Conference that he attended through Kinexus.

## 3. RPI RESOLUTION

Director Egelhaaf read the RPI Resolution in support of the 2019 RPI grant application to Michigan DTMB. Kurt Doroh **"MOVED TO APPROVE THE RPI RESOLUTION."** Yemi Akinwale seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed.

### 3.5. EDA RESOLUTION

Director Egelhaaf read the EDA Resolution in support of the SWMPC application for a three-year district planning grant. Marge Durm-Hiatt **"MOVED TO APPROVE THE EDA RESOLUTION."** Gloria Payne seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed.

## 4. TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

Director Egelhaaf gave a brief summary on Transportation funding; discussion followed. Kurt Doroh requested more detail on funding to help understand what funding is available. Sandra Hanson favored the request and Dick Stauffer agreed. Director Egelhaaf stated that he would assemble a presentation that will have some "takeaways" for Board Members.

**5. SWMPC PROJECT PRESENTATION**

Deputy Director Marcy Hamilton gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Seven County Non-motorized Plan, discussion and questions followed.

**6. AWARDS**

Egelhaaf gave a synopsis of the Welch Lackey Award and presented Leon Laylin as the staff's candidate, requesting that Board Members leave their completed ballots with Patrice before leaving today.

The Graham Woodhouse Award was discussed, with Egelhaaf soliciting project nominations from Board Members.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Don Hanson would like to address how HR Complaints are handled; stating that there should be a written document on the issue.

Marge Durm-Hiatt requested more information on the downsizing of the Commission in the coming year, stating that she received a letter from Berrien County asking if she wished to continue serving. Teri Sue Freehling stated that in Berrien anyone whose term is expiring is asked to resubmit their application if they wish to continue. Don Hanson pointed out that it is up to the counties how they want to handle this.

**8. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Don Ryman stated that Ryan Fellows had presented to the City of Buchanan committee and the public on the current status of their Master Plan; he stated that the Master Plan would contain a list of structures to be preserved as historical buildings. He stated that Historic Preservation should be in all Master Plans.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 10:56



Respectfully submitted by:

K. John Egelhaaf, AICP

Date: October 16, 2018

*SWMPC Mission Statement*

*Our team uses its passion and expertise to connect people, assist communities and advance cooperative solutions to regional challenges experienced by the communities that created us.*