



"One Team, One Town, One Family"

Morenci City Offices
118 Orchard Street
Morenci, MI 49256
(517) 458-6828

**PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA**

**REGULAR MEETING FOR
MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021
AT THE MORENCI CITY OFFICES
6:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL AND RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

APPROVAL OR AMENDMENT TO AGENDA

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. March 15, 2021 Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. None

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

1. None

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Master Plan

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT



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Regular Meeting of the
City of Morenci Planning Commission
March 15, 2021

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Art Erbskorn opened the meeting at 6:30 P.M.

Roll Call

The following Planning Commissioners were present at roll call: Commissioners Ron Apger, Chipper Connin, Sean Seger, Kathy Schiermyer, Jerome Bussell, Jeff Bell, and Erbskorn.

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Schiermyer, seconded by Commissioner Seger, to approve the agenda as presented.

All ayes, motion carried.

Public Comment Regarding Agenda Items

Jodi Kruse: Spoke about the e-mail that she sent to Planning Commissioners regarding marijuana businesses in the downtown and that she does not support such.

Jake Ekins: Mentioned that he represents Morenci Bible Fellowship Church. The church body does not support marijuana businesses in the downtown. Further stated that he works for Kreighoff – Lenawee and was the project manager on Florish and that it stinks. He stated that the City of Morenci needs to be concerned about that.

Sarah Wilkins: Mentioned that she represents Janie His and Hers and that she speaks for her family. Her family does not want marijuana facilities in the downtown.

Kori Christle: Does not support a smoking lounge in the downtown. Mentioned that she also supported marijuana facilities, but on the assumption that they wouldn't smell.

Heather Sarnac: Opposes rezoning of the downtown for marijuana facilities. Further mentioned that this doesn't feel right for the community.

Gene Momyer: Does not agree with marijuana zoned in the downtown and wants to know who supports this.

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Apger, to approve the meeting minutes from the February 8, 2021 Planning Commission Meeting Minutes.

All ayes, motion carried.

Public Hearing(s)

Chairperson Erbskorn opened the public hearing on the proposed amendment to the fence ordinance at 6:48 p.m.

No one (1) from the public wished to comment.

Chairperson Erbskorn closed the public hearing on the proposed amendment to the fence ordinance at 6:49 p.m.

Correspondence Received

None received.

Agenda Items

A motion was made by Commissioner Seger, seconded by Commissioner Apger, to recommend that the Morenci City Council approve the proposed amendment to the fence ordinance.

All ayes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Erbskorn, seconded by Commissioner Connin, to table without future date of consideration any discussion regarding marijuana land uses in the downtown area.

Roll Call: Commissioners Bussell – no, Apger – no, Connin – yes, Bell – yes, Schiermyer – yes, Seger – yes, Erbskorn – yes.

Motion passed, 5 – 2.

Further discussion:

- No motion was made to hold a joint-meeting with the Downtown Development Authority (DDA).
- It was agreed to solicit for an ad-hoc committee to help update the Master Plan.

Public Comment

Heather Sarnac: Mentioned that we shouldn't be looking to Flint or Detroit for standards. Further stated that she doesn't see the rumor that a person bought the old grocery store downtown for marijuana as just gossip, and that everyone attended the meeting because they care for the town. She ended by adding that people want to get ahead of this issue and that she is proud of the discussion that occurred this evening.

Jake Ekins: Wanted to know if Commissioner Apger and Commissioner Bussell could get bring this up to a vote anytime. Also wanted to know if this is simply pushing this down the river. Further stated that these places stink. He ended by thanking the Planning Commission for taking a stand on this tonight.

Kathy Schiermyer: Likes that everyone was here and that they care.

Ron Apger: Stated that he was happy to see the chairs full. Brought up the survey from 2017 regarding medical marijuana facilities and wanted to know how we got those numbers. Then ended by saying that he is for what the people want.

Jodi Kruse: Mentioned that she wants people sitting in these seats that represent our values.

Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Schiermyer, seconded by Commissioner Apger, to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 P.M.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 P.M.

Art Erbskorn, Chairperson

Sean Seger, Secretary



TO: Planning Commission Members

FROM: Michael S. Sessions, City Superintendent / City Clerk

DATE: 4/8//2021

SUBJECT: Master Plan Ad-hoc Committee

I have received six (6) letters of interest for the Master Plan Ad-hoc Committee. The letters are from the following individuals:

- Jodi Kruse – lives outside of the City of Morenci, but is a business owner
- Daniel Long– lives outside of the City of Morenci, but is a business owner
- Scott Orner – lives in the City of Morenci
- Don Lowe – lives in the City of Morenci
- Heather Sarnac – lives in the City of Morenci
- Jerome Bussell – lives in the City of Morenci

The Morenci Planning Commission agreed to create a committee of six (6) individuals to help with the Master Plan Update. The Michigan Planning Enabling Act (Act 33 of 2008) allows for the Morenci Planning Commission to have up to two (2) individuals on the actual Planning Commission that are not electors of the City of Morenci, but have some sort of stake in the community. No requirements were made on the qualification of the committee for the Ad-hoc Committee.

It is my recommendation that the Morenci Planning Commission discuss the letters of interest and appoint the Master Plan Ad-hoc Committee.

04/08/2021

To Whom it may concern,

Good Afternoon, my name is Daniel Long and I am interested in working with a committee for the City of Morenci Planning Commission. I am currently the owner of the new Freedom Lanes in Morenci (formerly Morenci Garage and Mor-N-C Lanes). I grew up in Morenci and lived there for 19 years and brought our business back to Morenci so we can see the community thrive again.

A little backstory of myself. I grew up in Morenci, went to Morenci Schools and left to pursue a career in management. For the past year we are the owners of Olympic Lanes in Blissfield and currently the owners of Freedom Lanes. Prior to that I have successfully owned a local grooming and boarding shop in Adrian. I know what it is like to be a small business owner in a community that is thriving for "Something to do". Having a stake in the community of Morenci makes me an ideal candidate because if Morenci succeeds, we succeed. I want to be a part of the big picture and see Morenci grow and thrive into a community that I once remember. I remember every night the downtown was bustling with bowlers, people grabbing a pizza from Pearls (that may date my time in Morenci), or the park full of kids. Creating a destination starts with an idea, and I believe that I have the ideas to help put that spark in motion.

I appreciate your time and consideration for this position. It is not a position that anyone should take lightly, you are paving the way for the future of Morenci, and for that reason alone I would be honored to assist in any way I can.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Long', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Daniel Long

Freedom Lanes, Owner

3280 Treat Hwy

Adrian, MI 49221

517442-5406

Michael Sessions

From: Don <nursedon@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 5:54 PM
To: michael.sessions@cityofmorenci.org
Subject: Ad hoc committee onmaster plan

Mike,

I am writing to express interest in joining the adhoc committee, to update the Morenci master plan. As a Morenci resident, I feel it's important to be involved and assist where you can in your community.

Over the years I have served several times on Municipal, State, and Federal committees. Including such things as spending of block grant funds, citizens police academy member, crime prevention and business development.

My history includes 10+ years in banking and finance management, and 30+ years as a Registered nurse, across many different vectors of care including hospital management.

Now retired, I have the time to assist in this master plan update.

Please advise me of any other information that you need.

Thank you,
Don Lowe RN

321 Page St
Morenci
419-689-6639

Nursedon@aol.com

Michael Sessions

From: Scott Orner <smileysfoodtruck10@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2021 12:45 PM
To: Michael.sessions@cityofmorenci.org
Subject: Ad-Hoc Committee

I would be interested in serving on the Ad-Hoc committee I think I could be an asset for the committee . I have been the president of the board for the interconnect drop in center in Adrian for 5 years now and have served on numerous committees and facilitate meetings and trainings, when I was working. Thank you for the consideration and opportunity to serve on this committee!

Scott

I Request to serve on the Committee
to Revisit the Enacted master plan.

- Jerome
Bussell

3-15-2021

Heather Sarnac
425 Lincoln St.
Morenci, MI 49256
(517)270-0785

March 29, 2021

Michael Sessions
City Superintendent/City Clerk
118 Orchard St.
Morenci, MI 49256

Mr. Sessions,

This letter is intended to express my interest in participating and being a member of the ad-hoc committee being established to study and update the City of Morenci's Master Plan, setting goals for the City of Morenci and Morenci Planning Commission, and guide community land use.

I appreciate your leadership and that the city is taking these strides. I am excited for the opportunity to have a role in the vision for our city's present and future.

Sincerely,

Heather Sarnac

March 30, 2021

RE: Letter of Interest for Ad-hoc Committee to Review Morenci's Master Plan

Dear City Planning Commissioners:

I would like to express my interest in serving on the ad-hoc committee to review, research and provide enhancement recommendations to Morenci's Master Plan.

I grew up in Morenci until I was 14 years old and later moved back as an adult. During my time here, some of the community activities I have been part of include coaching multiple sports, being part of the city's festival committee, the school PTO, and the Morenci Little League board to name a few.

On top of being vested in the community through volunteer activities, my husband and I own rental property and purchased and run a business that was about to close its doors just four years ago. Although I do not live within city limits, the development of our city and being able to provide diverse offerings is extremely important to me due to the many reasons I listed above, but most importantly for my three children who spend a good amount of time within city limits and go to school in Morenci.

There is nothing I want more than a future full of options and opportunities for families who currently live here, to give reason for our children to stay here if they choose once grown, and to attract new community-minded families to our great city. Thank you in advance for your consideration of my request.

Respectfully,

Jodi Kruse
Jammers Designs, Co-Owner