

**City of Brighton
Planning Commission
Minutes
July 16, 2012**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chairperson Monet called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. The following were present:

David McLane	Robert Pawlowski
Steve Monet	John Wells
Dave Petrak	Al Wirth
Larry Schillinger	Matt Smith

Absent: Bill Bryan

Motion by Mr. Schillinger, supported by Mr. Pawlowski, to excuse Commission Member Bryan from tonight's meeting. **Motion carried 8-0-1.**

Also present were Amy Cyphert and Lauri French from Staff and Brad Maynes from the City's attorney office. An audience of three was also present.

2. Approval of the June 18, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. Schillinger, supported by Mr. Petrak, to approve the June 18, 2012 regular meeting minutes as presented. **The motion carried 7-0-2 (Mr. Smith abstained and one absence).**

3. Approval of the July 16, 2012 Agenda

Motion by Mr. Smith, supported by Mr. McLane, to approve tonight's agenda as presented. **The motion carried 8-0-1.**

4. Call to the Public

The call to the public was made at 7:31 p.m. Hearing no response, call to the public was closed.

Public Hearings

Unfinished Business

New Business

5. Discussion on Amendments to Chapter 98 addressing Parolee Housing

Ms. Cyphert reviewed the actions requested at the June meeting to invite Washtenaw Catholic Social Services and Chief Tom Wightman to tonight's meeting to answer questions about the Parolee Housing Program. The three representatives in the audience are Holly Nicewander, Site Coordinator for the Livingston Prisoner Re-entry Program, from Washtenaw County Catholic Social Services, Maureen Norman, Housing Coordinator, Complete Counseling Center, and Bob Warner, Parole Supervisor, Livingston County Parole Office.

Ms. Norman explained that the state pays up to six months for housing for parolees in the program. She noted that there are four parolees living in Brighton in the rental units on Second St. She stated that all parolees in the program are required to go to MI Works and counseling, and that the goal is to make them self-sufficient and able to support themselves without assistance. She makes a scheduled visit to the Brighton houses once a week and there are

unscheduled, unannounced visits twice a month. Including the four parolees in Brighton, there are a total of 14 in the housing program in Brighton, Howell City and Howell Township. She reported that the four parolees in Brighton are all working at least part-time. Mr. Warner noted that there are about 150 total parolees in Livingston County and only 14 are in the housing program. Ms. Nicewander noted that a parole agent makes the recommendation for housing assistance and that some parolees don't need housing because they go back to live with their family.

Board Member Wells noted that at least everyone is aware there are parolees living in their neighborhoods when they are in the re-entry program. Mr. Wells also asked what happens if a parolee has not found work within six months. Ms. Nicewander responded that they can ask for a housing extension. Mr. Warner added that they work with employment agencies and plan a career path through MI Works.

There was discussion about risk and recidivism rates. Mr. Warner noted that there is more monitoring required for higher risk parolees including RF and GPS tracking, and that local law enforcement receives updated lists of all parolees in the county so they can use their normal methods of researching what crimes have been committed. He said they have taken a more proactive approach with communities than in the past. Police Chief Wightman noted that he sits on a steering committee with Howell and other communities who house parolees to work out whatever issues may come up. He also advised that one of the parolees in the housing program had been arrested for violating the terms of the housing agreement and Mr. Warner confirmed that the parolee is no longer living in the unit on Second St. and had been replaced by another parolee.

Ms. Cyphert reviewed the City Council meeting minutes from the May 3, 2012 meeting and noted that it does not appear that Council gave specific direction to Planning Commission; however, City Manager Foster is looking for an outcome for the parolee issue. Due to the discussion at last month's Planning Commission meeting, she suggested that Planning Commission could direct the City Attorney to write an opinion for Council regarding how we can utilize the current ordinance or what improvements should be made as well as whether we need to change any of the definitions in the ordinance. Board Member Wirth noted that under the current zoning for Second St. that there is nothing to prevent the state from buying all the houses on the street and using them for the re-entry housing program. Ms. Cyphert noted that in the meeting held with Washtenaw Catholic Social Services and the residents earlier this year, CSS agreed not to put any more parolees in that neighborhood.

Board Member Pawlowski asked if other communities have been able to limit programs such as this. City Attorney Brad Maynes noted that Brighton's definition of "family" is more liberal than other communities.

Chairperson Monet stated that there seems to be consensus from the Board to ask the City attorney to put together an opinion for the Planning Commission meeting in August as to whether our current ordinance adequately regulates the current set of circumstances and activity related to the parolee housing program or whether there are any loopholes that have to be fixed.

6. Set Master Plan Amendment Public Hearing for August 20, 2012

Ms. Cyphert noted that the comment period required for the Master Plan update just ended last week and she received two letters, one from Genoa Township and one from Livingston County, which were read into the record. There was discussion about which property was referenced in the second paragraph of the Genoa Township letter, and it was noted by Ms. Cyphert that they are referring to the Murphy property and the Magna property west.

Motion by Mr. Wells, supported by Mr. Schillinger, to set a Master Plan Amendment Public Hearing for August 20, 2012. **Motion carried 8-0-1.**

Other Business

7. Staff Updates

a. Award Discussion – Ms. Cyphert reported that she sent a letter to Sally Noeker's daughter advising her that Planning Commission would like to re-name one of the annual awards after her mother, but she has not heard back from her yet. Ms. Cyphert also noted that there will be a meeting in August.

8. Commissioner Concerns – Board Member Schillinger questioned whether there is an existing definition in our ordinance as to what constitutes a parking lot since there seems to be several locations in the City, including privately owned property and DDA-owned property, which are being used for parking, particularly for event weekends.

Motion by Mr. Schillinger to direct Staff to provide the Planning Commission with the requirements for construction of a parking lot. None of the Board members seconded the motion.

Ms. Cyphert stated there are rules in the ordinance if someone wants to build a public parking lot and she asked Mr. Schillinger if he was referring to a specific location that was being used for parking. Mr. Schillinger responded that he was talking about the former Johnson building lot on W. North Street and that he was concerned that there could be liability issues if we continue to allow parking on that site. Mr. Schillinger then withdrew his motion.

9. Call to the Public

The call to the public was made at 8:20 p.m. Hearing no response, call to the public was closed.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Mr. Petrak, supported by Mr. Wirth, to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. **The motion carried 8-0-1.**

John Wells, Secretary

Lauri French, Recording Secretary