

Mower County Planning Commission

Minutes of the Mower County Planning Commission

Members Present: Brian McAlister, Myles Bendtsen Diane Benson, Sheldon Lukes, Len Miller and Bev Weness

Members Absent: Vance Larson and Harold Boverhuis

Others Present: Lee Bonorden (Austin Daily Herald), Amy Olson (Austin-Post Bulletin) Glen Jacobsen (Mower Co. Asst. Attorney), Commissioner Ray Tucker, Denise Mudra, Dick Epley and Daryl W. Franklin

Chair Len Miller called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 28, 2000 at the Mower County Courthouse, 201 1st Street NE, Austin, Minnesota. Minutes of the February 29, 2000 meeting were approved as mailed on a motion by Brian McAlister seconded by Myles Bendtsen. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Miller opened the Planning Commission meeting by explaining that the Planning Commission would be listening to presentations from three consulting firms on updating the Comprehensive Plan.

SRF Consulting Group made the first presentation – the principals of Charlene Zimmer, Kim Lee and Alan Richardson. They discussed their proposed format, and shared with the Planning Commission their previous work in Goodhue, Douglas and Stearns counties. They stated that they wanted to work very closely with citizens and the County Planning Commission and use the material of the long-range committee.

Representatives from BRW made the second presentation, which consisted of Bill Weber, Susan Briese and Janet King. They also stressed the ability of the firm to try and construct a marriage of the existing Comp Plan and the long range committee goals and objectives. They have previously worked with McCloud County, Renville County and Sherburne County. They felt it was important to have representation from all townships while the process went forward.

The third presentation was from Dahlgren, Shardlow and Uban – John Shardlow presented the proposal and distributed a handout discussing their proposal. He stated that from his perspective, the other two consulting firms were very competent and capable firms and that whoever the County hired

would be an excellent firm. They have done work with Wabasha County. Mr. Shardlow also stated that the Hoisington Plan completed in 1993 was a very good document. He proposed that the document be examined closely before completing a new Comprehensive Plan. It is possible that the plan may not need to be totally replaced but may require only a small amount of updating.

After the conclusion of the three proposals, Commissioner Miller asked for comments from the Planning Commission and audience. The members had a great amount of confidence and support for John Shardlow. They felt that his approach was reasonable.

After some discussion, a motion was made by Brian McAlister to recommend Dahlgren, Shardlow and Uban as the consultant for updating the Comprehensive Plan, Zoning & Subdivision Ordinance. This would be contingent upon a reference check and a meeting with Phil Carlson, who is the principal planner on the project. Sheldon Lukes seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m. on a motion by Diane Benson, seconded by Sheldon Lukes. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Daryl W. Franklin
Mower Co. Planning Director

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