

**PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP ZONING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MARCH 24, 2009 MEETING**

Members Present: Howard Balzer, Christopher Finn, Glen Hymer, Hulda Moffitt, and Bruce Whyte (alternate)

Members Absent: Judy Stalter

Others Present: Connie Swisher, Zoning Inspector; Dana Scott, Zoning Clerk; Chris Rymer, Zoning Commission Alternate; and Pam Williams, Township resident

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Howard Balzer at 3:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Balzer asked for a motion to approve or correct the February 24, 2009 Prairie Township Zoning Commission Meeting Minutes.

As there were no corrections, Mr. Finn moved to approve the February 24, 2009 Zoning Commission Minutes as written. Mr. Hymer seconded the motion.

Roll call as follows:

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|---------------------|-----|
| 1. Glen Hymer | Aye |
| 2. Hulda Moffitt | Aye |
| 3. Bruce Whyte | Aye |
| 4. Christopher Finn | Aye |
| 5. Howard Balzer | Aye |

The motion was approved unanimously.

Old Business: None

New Business:

UPCOMING CHANGES TO PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP ZONING RESOLUTION

Article 13 - Planned United Development

Connie Swisher told the Commission that zoning staff is reviewing Article 13, Planned Unit Development, of the Township Zoning Resolution. Article 13 has not been updated since it was written. PUD administration code from a couple of districts is being looked at as a guide for updating Article 13. In the near future, a draft of amended Article 13 will be ready to present to the Zoning Commission.

The plan is to include Article 13 with several other sections of the zoning code that are in the process of being updated and to take action on the entire package of amendments at the same time.

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Article 6, Section 613 - Action by Township Trustees

Ms. Swisher reminded Commission members that Ohio House Bill 562 (Capital Budget & Budget Corrections Bill), effective September 25, 2008, contains a provision that creates the Ohio Commission on Local Government Reform and Collaboration. A section of the bill includes new language that governs Township Zoning Commission recommendations made to a Board of Trustees.

It no longer requires a “unanimous” vote (3 out of 3) of the Township Trustees to deny or modify Zoning Commission recommendations. Rather, a “majority” vote (2 out of 3) is now sufficient to deny or modify recommendations. If one trustee abstains or is absent and they split the vote, the recommendation is denied.

Section 613 of the Township code must be revised so as to comply with the new Ohio law. Currently it states “the unanimous vote of the Township Trustees is required.”

FRANKLIN COUNTY HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Ms. Swisher distributed a brochure that provided information about housing rehabilitation assistance available to eligible homeowners living in Franklin County outside the city limits of Columbus (suburbs and townships). The program is funded by the Franklin County Board of Commissioners and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. It is administered by the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) and applies to only single-family homes.

Eligibility requirements include family size/total household income and several other requirements related to the home.

Funds can be used to repair or upgrade such things as structural deficiencies, windows, siding, plumbing, electrical systems, and roofs, and to correct code deficiencies and lead-based paint hazards.

Ms. Swisher suggested that Commission members either use or pass along this information to other homeowners who might qualify and benefit from this assistance.

Ms. Williams asked if there were any financial eligibility requirements other than income, such as savings and total assets. Ms. Swisher responded that she did not know but suggested that the question very likely could be answered by calling MORPC at 233-4171 and asking for “Lil Frazier.”

Next Meeting:

Mr. Balzer announced that the next meeting of the Prairie Township Zoning Commission would be Tuesday, April 28, 2009, at 3:00 p.m. at the Township Hall, 23 Maple Drive.

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There being no further business, Mr. Balzer adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hulda Moffitt, Secretary
Prairie Township Zoning Commission

