

Meeting Minutes
Saline Sustainability Circle
Tuesday October 16, 2007
Lodi Township Hall

1. Call to Order and Introductions. Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Chairperson Lirones. Present:
Lodi Township: Jan Godek, Jack Steeb, Doug Veenstra
Pittsfield Township: Christina Lirones, Jim Walter
Saline Area Chamber of Commerce: Larry Osterling
City of Saline: David Rhoads
Saline Township: Laurie Leinbach
York Township: Keith Fineberg, Jane Kartje
Washtenaw County Planning and Environment: Josh Long
2. Review and Acceptance of Minutes from September 18, 2007. Motion by Walter, supported by Godek to approve the minutes. Motion carried.
3. Election of Secretary. Douglas Veenstra of Lodi Township was nominated and elected.
4. Review of SEMCOG population and employment draft projections distributed at the SEMCOG forum held on September 27, 2007.
 - Concerns were expressed that past projections from SEMCOG have been too high; actual population and employment growth have been lower than what SEMCOG has projected.
 - Past and current employment figures for Lodi Township seem very high. There are very few businesses in Lodi Township; businesses within the Township are small. We need to determine the source of the employment figures.
 - Forecasts do not appear to reflect plant closings, housing and commercial developments approved but not proceeding.
 - SEMCOG projections are useful for planning purposes. However, developers often use the projections as justification for approval of new developments that do not conform to local master plans.
 - Each governmental entity should carefully review SEMCOG's assumptions and provide feedback to SEMCOG before the final projections are published.
 - It would be helpful to the various communities to review data and projections that the County might have. The group decided to invite Terry Brinkman of Washtenaw County Planning and Environment to our next meeting to share this data.
5. Joint Planning Issues
Various joint agreements were discussed:
Consent agreement between the Saline Area Schools and Pittsfield Township regarding regulation of the land uses on school-owned property in Pittsfield Township.

The boundary and annexation agreement between the City of Saline and Pittsfield Township.

The upcoming agreement between the City of Saline and Saline Township for water and sewer service.

The joint planning agreement by SWWCOG was discussed. The Saline Sustainability Circle will follow developments to see how well this agreement works. There appears to be little advantage to Saline-area communities for such an arrangement at this time.

There was general agreement that the Saline Sustainability Circle members would continue to work to maintain the Saline area as an identifiable community, not an urban blob connected to Ann Arbor. Further, the communities agreed that Michigan Avenue should continue to be a connector route, not a destination.

6. Future Agenda Items.

Washtenaw County Planning and SEMCOG projections (tentatively November 20, 2007)

Saline Township Master Plan

Ann Arbor Airport expansion plans

Update list of representatives from member organizations

7. Meeting notices and announcements.

Washtenaw County draft transit plan will be discussed in public meetings:

October 17, 6:00 – 8:00 pm at Pittsfield Township Administration Building

October 18, 6:00 – 8:00 pm at Saline City Hall

Saline Area Historical Society and PUPS will hold a special walk at 7:00 on October 17: “The Dark Side of Saline.” The walk will start at the old Methodist Church on south Ann Arbor Street.

Washtenaw County is setting up an organization to promote Washtenaw County arts and culture.

Washtenaw County has a new brownfield planner – Jeremy McCallion.

Yorktown Commons at Willis and Carpenter is proceeding.

City of Saline has approved a plan for a new entrance off Maple Road for CVS.

8. Next Meeting Dates and Locations:

November 20, 2007 – Lodi Township Hall

December, 2007 – no meeting

January 15, 2008 – York Township Hall (Pittsfield Township as alternate location)

9. Public Comment. No public comments were offered.

10. Adjournment. Motion to adjourn by Walter, supported by Kartje. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Veenstra, Secretary