

Meeting Minutes
Saline Sustainability Circle
Tuesday November 20, 2007
Lodi Township Hall

1. Call to Order and Introductions
Chairperson Lirones called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.
Present:
Lodi Township: Bob Crowner, Jack Steeb, Doug Veenstra
Pittsfield Township: Christina Lirones, Jim Walter
Saline Area Chamber of Commerce: Larry Osterling
Saline Area Schools: Scot Graden, Thomas Wall
York Township: Jane Kartje
Washtenaw County Planning and Environment: Mike Scholl
2. Review and Acceptance of Minutes from October 16, 2007
Motion by Walter, supported by Kartje to approve the minutes. Motion carried.
3. Review of SEMCOG population and employment draft projections
Discussion was postponed to the January meeting. The group decided to invite Terry Brinkman of Washtenaw County Planning and Environment to speak at the January meeting.
4. Saline Township Master Plan
The draft of the Saline Township General Development Plan has been posted on Saline Township's web site: <http://www.salinetownship.org/index.html>. No one from Saline Township was present to discuss the status of the plan.
5. Saline Area Schools update
The School Board is considering a purchase offer for school property on the northeast corner of Michigan Avenue and Industrial Drive. The purchaser intends to use the site for a commercial development. The School Board is trying to determine how to balance the needs of the community and the Saline Area Schools. Tight finances have led the board and administration to look for additional sources of revenue. Sales of excess property would help the capital and maintenance budgets.

The property is zoned Public Facility. It is not in the Pittsfield Township utility district. The Pittsfield Township master plan limits commercial development along Michigan Avenue to nodes such as at State/Moon. The property is not within one of the identified nodes. Pittsfield Township and the Saline Sustainability Circle communities agree that Michigan Avenue should not become one long strip mall. Development along Michigan Avenue east and west of Saline should try to preserve the rural character of the area.

The Saline Area Schools agreed to the Public Facilities zoning for the property in

exchange for Pittsfield Township vacating a sewer easement that ran under the new high school.

The decision appears to boil down to: Should the Saline Area Schools maximize the value of its property, or should it honor its past agreements with Pittsfield Township. There is also the question whether the Schools would realize sufficient value after legal expenses over the proposed commercial use.

6. Future Meeting Topics

- SEMCOG and LUCA data – census data and how it can be analyzed.
- Saline Area Schools transportation issues. Can costs be reduced by relocating and/or reducing the number of bus stops?
- Downtown Saline plans – Art Trapp

7. Meeting Notices / Events

- Saline Area Schools Board meeting November 27, 6:30 pm. Consider changing school election date from May to August or November. Discuss the issue November 27; possibly vote on the issue in December.
- One Washtenaw intergovernmental cooperation meeting 3:00 – 5:00 November 27.
- Washtenaw County Local Government Planning Workshop November 29 at Weber's. Meeting starts at 7:00 with networking and refreshments at 6:30. Please RSVP to Mary Kowalski at 734.222.3838 or kowalskim@ewashtenaw.org.
- Holiday Parade in downtown Saline at 5:30 on December 1.
- Kristkindle Market on South Ann Arbor Street all day December 1.
- Saline Area Schools Craft Show 5:00 – 11:00 December 7 at the Middle School.

8. Public Comment

The County is considering installing a wood-burning boiler for heating the addition to the jail. Concerns were expressed about pollution and economics. A report is due to the Board of Commissioners on December 3.

9. Next Meetings

- January 15, 2008 – Brecon Village (5:30 pm). Chamber of Commerce will host. Saline Area Schools transportation issues
SEMCOG and LUCA data
- February 19, 2008 – York Township Hall.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Kartje, supported by Walter. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Veenstra, Secretary