

Meeting Minutes
Saline Area Sustainability Circle
Tuesday February 16, 2010
Pittsfield Township Administration Building
6201 W. Michigan Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Call to Order and Introductions

Vice-Chair Rhoads called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

Present:

Lodi Township: Jack Steeb, Doug Veenstra

Pittsfield Charter Township: Barbara Fuller

Saline Area Chamber of Commerce: Larry Osterling

Saline Area Schools: Tom Wall

City of Saline: Todd Campbell, Gretchen Driskell, David Rhoads, Art Trapp

Saline Township: Laurie Leinbach

Charter Township of York: Jane Kartje

1) Review and Acceptance of Minutes from January 19, 2010

Minutes were approved without objection.

2) Election of Secretary

A new secretary was not identified. A meeting secretary will be selected at each meeting.

3) Name Change Proposal

Concern has been expressed that the name "Saline Sustainability Circle" does not adequately reflect the region beyond the City of Saline. At the January meeting, the consensus was that the name should be changed to "Saline Area Sustainability Circle". Members reviewed proposed name change with their respective organizations. Motion by Veenstra, supported by Steeb, to change the name of the Saline Sustainability Circle to "Saline Area Sustainability Circle" and update the charter accordingly. Motion passed unanimously.

4) Growth Management Area Discussion Update

Resumes have been received from four intern candidates: Steve Clark, Mathew Corwin, Joseph Freeman, and David Saltzman. The group agreed that Campbell and Wall will interview the candidates next week and make the selection.

Next step is to develop the presentation for the area governments.

5) Announcements and Meeting Notices

- The Saline Area Schools building and grade configuration committee has met five times. The committee has narrowed the number of options to three.
- The Saline Area Schools activity fee committee is recommending fees for extracurricular activities of \$40/student/year for high school students and \$20/student/year for middle school students. One fee will cover all non-athletic extracurricular activities for a school year. Scholarships will be available for low-income families.

- Saline Area Schools will lay off 4 teachers and 2 long-term substitutes effective mid-March (at the start of the 3rd trimester).
- The Saline Area Schools Superintendent has established a committee to consider the possibility of grade weighting on high school transcripts (e.g., extra weighting for honors courses, more credit for A+, high school credit for certain middle school courses)
- York Township is reviewing its Zoning Ordinance, Master Plan, and wind energy regulations.
- Pittsfield Township has a road where ITC wants to remove trees in easement to prevent them from interfering with power lines in the future. An injunction was issued to prevent removal until a court hearing is held.
- Pittsfield Township adopted its Parks & Recreation Master Plan
- The Saline Township consent judgment with Biltmore has been interpreted and agreed so that Biltmore has seven years from now to exercise its rights.
- The Saline Township Planning Commission is reviewing its Master Plan for missing corrections that were supposed to have been made when it was adopted. It is also reviewing its Zoning Ordinance.
- Lodi Township adopted its Master Plan. The Planning Commission is reviewing the Zoning Ordinance.
- Lodi Township has approved two wind energy systems.
- The proposed SBA radio tower at Zeeb and Waters roads has been held up by the Lodi Township board until agreement is reached on an 800MHz emergency communication antenna on the tower.
- Downtown Saline Ladies Night Out on February 11 was very successful.
- On Friday nights this summer there will be music and entertainment downtown.
- Saline is looking for a winter event for downtown Saline to be held next January or February.
- Saline is incubating a winter music series; Fiddlers Restrung will perform in a couple of weeks.
- Saline Salutes would like nominations from the area, not just the city. Check the Chamber of Commerce web site at <http://salinechamber.com/awards.htm> for details.
- The Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti Chambers of Commerce are consolidating. The Saline Area Chamber of Commerce board has discussed the issue of consolidation and has no plan to consolidate.
- The Chamber of Commerce has a regular slot on Business Talk radio on 1290AM. Call Larry Osterling if you have a topic.
- The City of Saline is combining the positions of assistant city engineer and DPW director after the current DPW director retires.
- The City of Saline has established a cemetery task force to decide what to do about its cemetery. The current cemetery is running out of space.
- The Saline Area Fire District budget is being disseminated to all affected municipalities.
- The Michigan Local Government Benchmarking Consortium (MSU Extension) is going to review City of Saline operations to suggest possible areas for improvement.
- Sunday February 21 at 2:00 at the library -- the Saline Area Historical Society will present a program by Martha Churchill on Interurban Trolleys.

- Saline Leadership Institute recently graduated Class 12. Class 13 is enrolling now through March 20. The class starts with two-day retreat April 29. See www.Salineleadershipinstitute.com.
- The Saline Teen Center proposal is moving forward. A proposal is due later in February.

6) Upcoming Meetings

- The March 16th meeting is scheduled for the Saline Police Department Training Room (100 N. Harris Street, Saline, MI 48176 – City Hall building).

7) Public Comment

Google High-Speed Internet:

Google wants to build a test of high-speed (1Gigabit per second) Internet access to serve 50,000-500,000 people. The test will involve one or more communities. The response to the Request for Information is due March 26. The City of Saline, Saline Area Schools, and Pittsfield Township are interested in submitting a joint application. There will be a meeting of IT people and other interested parties Thursday, February 18, at 2:00pm at City Hall to plan the response.

8) Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:51pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Douglas Veenstra
Secretary

Visit the Saline Area Sustainability Circle website at www.salinesustainability.org.