

Meeting Minutes
Saline Sustainability Circle
Tuesday February 19, 2008
York Township Hall

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson Lirones called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Present:

Lodi Township: Jack Steeb, Doug Veenstra

City of Milan: Martha Churchill

Pittsfield Township: Christina Lirones, Feliziana Meyer

Saline Area Chamber of Commerce: Larry Osterling

Saline Area Schools: Thomas Wall

City of Saline: David Rhoads

Saline Township: Laurie Leinbach

Washtenaw Area Transportation Study: Terri Blackmore

York Township: Keith Fineberg, Jane Kartje, Frank Stukenborg

2. Review and Acceptance of Minutes from January 15, 2008

Item 4 of the minutes was corrected to include subdivision sidewalks and streetlights in the school system's design guidelines for possible inclusion in local zoning ordinances.

Motion by Kartje, supported by Rhoads, to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

3. Transit Plan for Washtenaw County – Draft Recommendations

Terri Blackmore of the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study presented an overview of the Transit Plan for Washtenaw County. The plan identifies many transit deficiencies and needs. The full plan may be accessed at

<http://www.miwats.org/transit/transit.htm>. Recommendations are discussed at http://www.miwats.org/transit/docs/transit_plan_2_08_5.pdf.

Funding sources need to be identified to implement the recommendations. Up to 10% of the fuel tax is supposed to be used for public transit projects. Unfortunately, this fund is regularly diverted for other state government needs.

Drive Michigan is a campaign to provide more funding for transportation projects (including transit) by increasing the state's gasoline and diesel fuel taxes. See <http://www.drivemi.org/> for more information.

Terri Blackmore offered to present the plan to the boards of local communities.

4. Future Agenda Items

Introduction of Todd Campbell, the new Saline City Manager
Downtown Saline plans (Art Trapp, Todd Campbell)

Review the Regional Planning Guidelines
Develop a strategy for Private Wastewater Treatment Plants within the SSC region
Transfer of Development Rights (Elizabeth Riggs)

5. Announcements and Meeting Notices

Saline Township has approved a new General Development Plan and a new Zoning Ordinance.

Saline Area Schools has narrowed the list of 14 candidates for superintendent to five finalists. School Board interviews of the five finalists will take place the evenings of March 3, 4, and 5 in the Middle School Media Center.

York Township presented an overview of a six-year plan to develop an environmental education passive recreation area in Mary McCann Park. Major funding has been provided by CARES; most labor has been local volunteers.

The grand opening for the new Border's store on Lohr Road will be held Friday, February 22.

David Rhoads is on the Economic Development and Land Use Committee of the Michigan Municipal League.

Saline Area Historical Society meets at the depot at 7:30 on February 20. Cheryl Valentine, curator of Walker Tavern, will speak.

A public forum for the Saline Area Youth Center will be held at 7:00 on February 28 in the Saline City Hall.

Plans are moving forward to redevelop Henne Field this summer. Approximately half the funds needed have been secured.

The Saline Leadership Institute is accepting nominations for the next class.

The Saline Area Chamber of Commerce is putting together its annual directory, which is widely distributed. Larry Osterling would like to include information about each of the townships in the area. Please contact Larry with information about your township.

Washtenaw County provides some tax benefits for historic preservation within the county. Contact Martha Churchill at MilanHistory@yahoo.com for more information.

6. Next Meeting Dates and Locations

March 18, 2008 – Lodi Township

April 15, 2008 – Saline Township

May 20, 2008 – Pittsfield Township

7. Adjournment

Motion by Kartje, supported by Leinbach, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Veenstra
Secretary