

**Meeting Minutes
Saline Sustainability Circle
Tuesday September 16, 2008
Saline Township Hall**

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson Lirones called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

Present:

Lodi Township: Jack Steeb, Doug Veenstra, Frank Parkinson

Pittsfield Township: Christina Lirones

Saline Area Schools: Thomas Wall

Saline Area Chamber of Commerce: Larry Osterling

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

Saline Township: Laurie Leinbach

Washtenaw County Planning: Terry Brinkman

York Township: Jane Kartje

State Senator Randy Richardville: John Manor

2. Review and Acceptance of Minutes from June 17, 2008

Motion by Rhoads, supported by Steeb, to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Nomination and Election of Officers

Nomination by Steeb of the following people to serve as officers:

Chair: Todd Campbell

Vice-Chair: David Rhoads

Secretary: Douglas Veenstra

Motion by Rhoads, supported by Steeb, to close nominations. Motion carried unanimously.

Nominations approved unanimously.

The new officers assumed their positions immediately.

4. Downtown Saline Plans – Art Trapp, David Rhoads, Todd Campbell

Art Trapp discussed several plans and projects

- Urban Design Plan for the next 20 years, by Quinn Evans & cooper Design, May 2007
 - Coordinate with MDOT for Michigan Ave. reconstruction 2013
 - Market Plaza Pavilion
 - Medians on Michigan Ave.
 - Crosswalks
 - Dedicated left turn lanes
 - Mixed use for R & B building
 - Preserve residential character on edges of downtown
 - Bicycle parking downtown
- Way Finding Project
 - 64 total signs

- 25 signs for Michigan Ave.
- Current projected cost, about \$140,000
- Current signs at Michigan Ave and Industrial & Michigan Ave and Barnes Court
- Project on Hold, may be done in phases
- Holiday Tree Lighting
 - Removed all existing lighting in May 2008
 - Started “Keep Saline Glowing” campaign
 - Goal was \$10,000 to be matched by the City
 - City is sponsoring four large trees at the four corners
- Marketing & Promotions Plan
 - 32 RFP’s sent out
 - 8 responded
 - 3 interviewed
 - 1 recommendation to Saline City Council for September 22, 2008 meeting.
 - Goals, Create image or brand, develop coordinated advertising for community, develop public relations campaign, explore communications vehicles, reinforce image of Downtown Saline, develop tools for business retention and recruitment and develop a strategy for a budget, schedules and action items.
- Teen Center
 - Youth council has met several times with the community to acquire information and support for a downtown teen center.

Dave Rhoads presented his vision for downtown. The vision is based on attracting additional people and business to downtown Saline by making the area more cohesive and removing psychological barriers for pedestrian. Conceptual drawings of some of the plan elements may be viewed at:

http://salinesustainability.org/meetings/2008Meetings/Rhoads_091608.pdf. Elements of the plan include:

- Additional mixed-use (retail, office, residential) buildings in the block on the southeast of Michigan Avenue and Ann Arbor Street.
- A new street/pedestrian mall between Michigan Avenue and Henry Street on the site of the R&B building.
- Possible conversion of Historic Union School to an arts center or other community use.
- A renovated Henne Field to use as a community park.
- Retail and office buildings on the north side of Bennett street east of Ann Arbor Street (north of Henne Field). A walkway from Henne Field to the Depot Museum and walking trail is included.
- Parking structures to provide the required additional parking without increasing land area dedicated to parking. The parking structures could include ground-floor storefronts to reduce the psychological pedestrian barriers.

Todd Campbell provided an update on activities within the city:

- The Banks of Saline development – Johnson Controls has finished the hazardous materials cleanup. Brownfield redevelopment grants are in process.

- The Recreation Center has purchased new cardio equipment and added two pieces of Nautilus equipment. An outdoor sand volleyball court has been built. Renovations to the Tefft Park tennis courts are in process. An annual 3% membership fee increase has been set for the next five years. An automatic monthly charge to members' credit cards has been offered for members' convenience.

5. Future Agenda Items

Ann Arbor Disability Council

Review the Regional Planning Guidelines

Develop a strategy for Private Wastewater Treatment Plants within the SSC region

Transfer of Development Rights (Elizabeth Riggs)

6. Next Meeting Dates and Locations

October 21, 2008 – Saline City Hall

November 18, 2008 – York Township (Lodi Township as an alternate)

7. Meeting Notices and Announcements

- Sunday, September 21, 2:00-6:00 pm, Field Day at Henne Field. See the flyer at <http://hennefield.org/images/pages/HenneFieldDayFlyer.pdf>.
- Wednesday, September 24, 6:30 pm, the Saline Township Board and Planning Commission will hold a joint meeting with the City of Saline Council and Planning Commission to discuss the PA425 agreement between the two entities. Water and sewer issues still need to be considered.
- Saturday, September 27, 9:00 am – 11:00 pm, Harvest of the Arts and Oktoberfest on South and North Ann Arbor Street. Further details at <http://www.salinehoa.net/>.
- Saturday, September 27, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm, Harvest Time and 10th year celebration of Rentschler Farm Museum. See details at http://salinehistory.org/index.php?section=events&content=index#harvest_time_on_the_farm.
- Tuesday, September 30, noon, Google will speak at the Chamber Luncheon at Stonebridge.
- Thursday, October 9, Toyota will hold an open house at its new facility.
- Friday, October 31 (Halloween), 5:00 – 8:00 pm, South Ann Arbor Street will be closed for a community Halloween celebration.
- Saturday, December 6, 5:30 pm, the annual holiday parade will take place on Michigan Avenue. Expect 1600 people and 75 floats to participate. Still looking for a major sponsor.
- Fundraising has begun for the Henne Field renovation. Renovation will cost about \$1.3 million, \$600,000 will come from CARES. The Friends of Henne Field are trying to raise the remaining \$700,000. Henne Field plans can be seen at <http://hennefield.org/>.
- Saline Area Schools' enrollment has remained steady this year. There are concerns about the unfunded mandate from the legislature to provide all-day kindergarten starting next school year.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Lirones, supported by Steeb, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at

9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas Veenstra
Secretary

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