

Village of Howard City & Reynolds Township  
Joint Planning Commission Meeting Minutes  
March 22, 2021

Township Chairperson Kentgen called the meeting to order at 7:18 pm. Present: Werner, Sherburne, Kentgen, Kowdlczyk. Absent: Mason, Poprowski.

Village Chairperson Kilts called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. Present: Kilts, Crater, MacTavish, Parker, Bassett. Absent: Thomas, Jr. Others Present: Falcon and Kuzmik

Jan and Tim Johnson from Main Street Planning gave the background on the Joint Master Plan process. The Master Plan will be a new document with all new data included for both the Township and the Village. If there are any deviations to the approved plan, changes will need to be approved by both the Township Board and Village Council.

This first meeting was an issues identification and issues workshop. A joint master plan committee will need to be formed. It is recommended to have three commissioners from each entity to form the committee along with two other people from each community, who can be anyone. This committee will set its own meeting schedule and will meet on its own. Main Street Planning has allowed for five meetings for this committee. Main Street Planning has also planned for an on-line survey to be completed by residents.

All Commissioners participated in an Issues Identification and Guiding Principles Workshop. Results are as follows:

Group One: Pedestrian access, more sidewalks, have a walkway extending out toward Dairy Bear from downtown in order to have better visibility. More development in town and township, businesses, more growth. Would like to see more shopping and have more development downtown. Have a fellowship hall/community center for larger gatherings. Beautify more around the parks. Build band shell in Ensley Park; possible skate park or splash pad.

Guiding Principles: 1) More industrial development to bring more people into the area. 2) Commercial shopping; develop downtown. 3) Community gatherings – band shell, community center.

Group Two: Preserve the idea of rural and ag community as it is important to this community. Schools, churches, and residential areas – develop and strive to make better. Industrial center – bring other business opportunities and people for jobs – tie into school system. Parks and entertainment, artistic community, music in the park brings in all sorts of people. Small business development; shopping centers. Fill buildings and get people back downtown.

Guiding Principles: 1) Parks and Entertainment – brings people to shop. 2) Small business/economic development. 3) School system, churches and community.

Group Three: Paving trail. Shopping center, band shell, skate park, industrial expansion, community center, planning and transforming downtown, collaborating with schools, dialogue with rest of community, bed and breakfast, 4-H.

Guiding Principles: 1) Develop youth opportunities. 2) Build community – community will be better if downtown is more vibrant. 3) Increase development – have to have a marketing strategy.

Each person then picked top three priority items from entire discussion.

Motion by Township Kentgen seconded by Sherburne to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 pm. Motion CARRIED (4-0)

Motion by Village Kilts seconded by MacTavish to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 pm. Motion CARRIED (5-0)