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19729 - 11 Mile Road, Big Rapids, MI 49307 PH:231-796-8935 FX:231-796-9185

Approved Meeting Minutes
Planning Commission
January 7, 2025

1. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:03 PM
2. Pledge
3. Roll call: Present: Linda Bechaz, Howard Bowersox, James Cain, Ken Draves, Mark Kidd, Troy Beeney. Also present Jeff Charron Zoning and Nancy Sanchez Deputy Clerk (taking minutes).
4. Approval of Agenda
Mark Kidd made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by James Cain. 5 Yeas 0 Nays, motion carried.
5. Approval of the minutes
Mark Kidd made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by James Cain. 5 Yeas 0 Nays, motion carried.
6. Comments from the public and communication concerning matter not on the agenda, None.
7. Public Hearing
 - A. Barn Event Venue
Linda Bechaz commented that corrections needed to be made on the Ordinance Section 5, #6 Alcohol Service and #19 Violations. #6 Alcohol Service the word currently be changed to current. Alcohol may also be provided by the even sponsor, if using a server with CURRENT Michigan Certified Server Card to satisfy State laws governing such service. #19 Violations, the word all changed to shall. The requirements of the section SHALL be incorporated into the approving resolution for the special land use and compliance herewith shall be continued requirement for operation of the special land use.
Mark Kidd made the motion to approve the corrections on the ordinance seconded by James Cain. 5 Yeas 0 Nays motion carried.
Ordinance approved as corrected
8. Public comments (Barn Event Venue)
Jim Doyle 9695 185th Ave Stanwood MI 49346
"I want to thank you for the hours and hours of work you put into this, that's all"
A letter of concern was received January 5, 2025 form Rex and Tina Dukes
Concerns were the time frame from May 1 October 31 being in the time frame of summer when families are together, they feel this will be a distraction. Concern regarding portable lavatories being in site of neighbors. Concern regarding the 125 feet from property line distance not being enough. They feel fences should also be a requirement when a residential area is looking at staring a venue.

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Michele Graham, Supervisor Stephanie McNeal, Clerk Mary Quinlan, Treasurer
Tyler Huntley, Trustee James Cain, Trustee

Howard Bowersox when over the entire document.

Ken Draves commented on his agreement of Rex and Tina Dukes letter regarding the 125 feet from property line distance not being enough.

Howard Bowersox made a note that each venue will be on a case-to-case basis and must be brought to the Planning Commission to be approved or correction made.

9. Approval of the Barn Event Venue Ordinance to move to the Township Board for adoption
Mark Kidd motioned Troy Beeney seconded the motion
Linda Bechaz Yes
Howard Bowersox Yes
James Cain Yes
Troy Beeney Yes
Ken Draves No
Mark Kidd Yes
Motion carried

B. Storage Container

Howard Bowersox read and went over the ordinance document

10. Public comments NONE
11. Close public hearing
12. Mark Kidd motioned to move Storage Container ordinance to Township Board for adoption Linda Bechaz seconded
13. 5 Yeas 0 Nays motion carried

14. Old Business: James Cain commented on the Master Plan. Ken Draves and Linda Bechaz commented on needing to look at and revise the Zoning Map the one in the Township Office is out of date.

15. 2025 Planning Commission meeting dates

John Boyd presented the proposed meeting dates. The First Tuesday of each month with no meeting in July, 2025
5 Yeas 0 Nays to accept the meeting dates
16. New Business None

Mary Quinlan Township Treasure "Township trustee she wanted to also thank you to the Planning Commission
Stephine McNeal Township Clerk "Second the thank you to the Planning Commission
17. Close the meeting: Mark Kidd motioned to adjourn Linda Bechaz seconded
5 Yeas 0 Nays meeting adjourned at 7:44 PM

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