

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO  
TOWNSHIP BOARD  
JOINT BOARDS MEETING  
September 20, 2016**

A joint meeting of the various boards of the Township was held at the Township Hall. Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

TOWNSHIP BOARD  
Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell  
Clerk Deb Everett  
Treasurer Nancy Culp  
Trustee Nancy Carr  
Trustee Dusty Farmer  
Trustee Zak Ford  
Trustee Grant Taylor

PLANNING COMMISSION  
Millard Loy  
Fred Antosz  
Wiley Boulding

ZBA  
Cheri Bell  
Neil Sikora  
Bob Anderson  
Mike Smith

DDA  
Libby Heiny-Cogswell  
Grant Taylor

FRIENDS OF THE PARKS  
Dennis Patzer  
Libby Heiny-Cogswell  
Deb Everett

SoDA  
Dennis Patzer  
Libby Heiny-Cogswell

Also present were Parks Director Karen High, Planning Director Julie Johnston, Township Attorney James Porter, and Public Works Director Marc Elliott.

**Friends of the Parks** – Parks Director High provided information on the capital campaign for the Drake Farmstead. She advised volunteers from Lake Michigan Credit Union recently assisted with planting in the rain garden at Township Park, a tree planting grant was received from the Michigan Arbor Day Alliance for twenty trees at the Drake Farmstead and volunteers from Advia Credit Union will be assisting, there will be an open house on October 23<sup>rd</sup> from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Drake House. She also advised a grant of \$3,500 has been received from the Kalamazoo Arts Council for the Music in the Park series next summer.

**Township Board** – Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell advised the 10<sup>th</sup> Street sewer project is expected to be complete October 5<sup>th</sup>, the Atlantic Avenue sewer project has been completed, the rear access drive behind the Oshtemo Community Center has been completed and the local businesses using it are very happy, the Township Board is working on the 2017 budget which will include conducting a community survey; the budget also includes maintaining the current nine police officers, increasing staff to assist Public Works Director Elliott with sewer, water, and non-motorized projects, and in an effort to address the cost of infrastructure projects, the Township is working with Fleis & VandenBrink to research the possibility of funding opportunities from the Federal Rural Development grant program.

**Planning Commission** – Planning Director Johnston advised the Planning Commission will begin work to update the Master Plan which will include review of the Maple Hill focus area plan, the form based code and Village Theme Development Plan for the 9<sup>th</sup> Street/Stadium area. She also advised the zoning ordinance will be undergoing reorganization and updated to include ordinances that support the Master Plan. She also noted the new program will allow staff to immediately update the ordinance versus sending the information to a vendor.

Ms. Johnston also advised the Planning Commission and ZBA have been busier than last year; in 2015 21 site developments were reviewed, year to date 2016 there have been 28, there have been 6 variance requests and 3 rezoning requests year to date.

**DDA** – DDA Chair Grant Taylor advised the DDA are discussing with the Oshtemo Methodist Church how they might assist with removal of the car wash on their property, will be working on a Safe Routes to School project for sidewalks on 9<sup>th</sup> Street from Prairie Ridge Elementary to Stadium Drive, and they will be looking to conduct market and traffic studies in conjunction with the Master Plan update.

**SoDA** – Planning Director Johnston advised the SODA board has discussed the non-motorized facility from West Michigan to Stadium regarding snow removal and ongoing maintenance they could assist with.

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:40 p.m.

**DEBORAH L. EVERETT**  
Township Clerk

**Attested: ELIZABETH HEINY-COGSWELL**  
Supervisor