

Amsterdam/Churchill Community Planning Group Minutes  
January 7, 2008

Attendees: Warren Vaughan, Erika Braaksma, Gene Bennett, Tim VanDam, Robin Swanson, Mike Darby, Brenda Darby, Walt Sales, Robert Flikkema, Reese Miller, Todd Kitto, Charlie Pipal, Mark Kredit, Bob Urich, Glen Flikkema, Ada Montague, Liz Flikkema, Deb Kimball-Robinson, Karen Braaksma, LeRoy Logterman, Dan Kimm, Carol Weidenaar, Jason Kimm, John Fowler, and Gail Weidenaar

Meeting Introduction:

- 1) Warren opened the meeting by asking everyone to share their name and how their Christmas went. He also wondered if anyone had heard any rumors regarding the community planning process. A meeting agenda and an attendance sheet were passed around the group.
- 2) Once again, some attendees shared rumors regarding county wide zoning verses the Amsterdam/Churchill community planning process.
- 3) Walt asked for a motion from the floor to accept the December 20<sup>th</sup> minutes. Mark made the motion and Gene seconded it. Motion passed by consensus. (all 5 finger votes)
- 4) Warren quickly explained the main difference between the County Planning Department and the County Planning Board. The County Planning Department consists of about 10 paid staff members who work for the County Commission. In contrast, the County Planning Board is made up of approximately 11 volunteers. Their purpose is to provide recommendations to the County Commission.
- 5) Two informational handouts were passed around the table by Warren. They were as follows:
  - 1) A newspaper article titled "Small Towns Establish Community Foundation"
  - 2) A section from The Planning for Results Guidebook

Training Session:

- 6) Warren gave a presentation explaining the tools available for managing growth and change within a community.
- 7) Along with his presentation, two handouts were passed around the table. The first handout consisted of three example policies for everyone to think about. The three example topics related to protecting agriculture, promoting land use compatibility, and increased local control. The second handout explained in detail how these policies could be implemented.

### Upcoming Meetings:

- 8) The next community meeting is planned for 7pm on Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Manhattan Christian High School Library.
- 9) The agenda of the upcoming community meeting was discussed. Walt will start with a short recap of the findings from the last community meeting, as well as a quick review of what has happened since the last meeting. John will explain the proposed “working” planning boundary. Warren will give a brief presentation explaining the tools available for managing growth and change within a community (much like the presentation he gave during this meeting). Meeting attendees will then be split into working groups to address what tools need to be implemented to achieve the community goals. If there is any remaining time, questions will be taken from the floor.
- 10) Then next Amsterdam/Churchill community planning group meeting is scheduled for 7pm on Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at the Amsterdam Rural Fire Hall.
- 11) An informal meeting will be held from 10-12pm on Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at the Amsterdam Rural Fire Hall to address questions and concerns of area land owners. Landowners will be contacted by planning group members to inform them of the upcoming meeting.

### Future Agenda Topic:

- 12) The planning group agreed that the possibility of forming a long term community planning committee should be explored. This would be done to help achieve local control in the future. This non-profit organization could receive sponsorships from the community to cover any expenses. Warren noted that there could also be some grants available.
- 13) The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 pm.