

Amsterdam/Churchill Community Planning Group
December 15, 2008

Attendees: Walt Sales, Bob Urich, Dean Sybesma, Jack Vander Molen, Erika Braaksma, Brent Sinnema, LeRoy Logterman, Jason Kimm, Warren Vaughan, and Carol Weidenaar

Meeting Introduction:

- 1) Walt opened the meeting at 7:11pm. There was a voting quorum present.
- 2) The following amendments were proposed for the November 25th minutes:
 - a) Item # 5 regarding Neil Hosking's presentation should also include the following suggestions and comments:
 - think more about where the retirement home is placed
 - intersections should line up (for example with Churchill and Leonard Street)
 - requiring sidewalks within the subdivision
 - the plan's proposed access onto Churchill Road is too close to Bethel Church corner
 - b) The word "development" needs a specific definition regarding item #7 within the contiguous growth policy.

LeRoy moved to approve the November 25th minutes as amended. Bob seconded. Motion passed.

- 3) It was noted that Tim, Gail, and Carol would be either late or absent from the meeting due to a school function. Three officers (LeRoy, Walt, and Erika) voted and approved excused absences for them.

Business:

4) **Committee Reports:**

Rural Landowner Committee – Brent reported that the committee had met earlier this morning to discuss the three main parts of the rural chapter: uses, densities, and standards. More specifically, the committee discussed county wide density standards, setbacks of 50' for new residential construction from Ag land, and review requirements if traffic use becomes greater than 250 trips per day between subdivisions and new commercial development.

The committee feels the "Protecting Ag" section of the document is coming together well. However, the issue of when expanding Ag use becomes a commercial use is stalled in discussion.

Jason reported on a separate meeting held with 5 local rural landowners and Commissioner Joe Skinner. Most of the meeting time was spent explaining the county's program. Landowner feedback seemed to be mostly positive as landowners saw new opportunities opening up for them. It was generally felt that the small group meetings work well and facilitate communication between everyone involved.

Treasurer Committee – Walt spoke with Todd Kitto, who wants to be removed from the committee. Keith Venema hasn't been contacted yet.

- 5) **Contiguous Growth Policy:** Warren split everyone into two groups and passed around a handout titled, "Reflections on the AC Town Core," which was written to lay out the broad policies and questions discussed thus far regarding the Amsterdam/Churchill core.

The two groups agreed to add schools, public health and safety, and retirement villages to Warren's list of policy areas to pursue.

There was a majority "no" answer to the question, "Is the town core boundary we have been working with the last several months appropriate given our community values?" It was generally agreed that the core boundary should be made smaller on all sides. Each group made changes to the working core boundary and were incorporating their ideas together into a new working boundary when the meeting came to a close.

The question of how the ACCPG should handle disagreements over these issues in the future remained unaddressed.

Closing Business:

- 6) There was no recorded motion to adjourn. The meeting ended around 9:15pm.
- 7) The next ACCPG meeting will be held on Monday, January 12th from 7-9pm at the Churchill Bank.