

Minutes: Russell Township Zoning Commission
Russell Fire-Rescue Station
August 26, 2015

Present: Bruce Murphy, Vice Chairman
Tom Warren
Ben Kotowski
Donna Weiss Carson

Also in attendance: Diana Steffen, Secretary.

Mr. Snyder was absent with apologies.

The meeting was called to order at 7:34p.m.

MINUTES OF July 22, 2015 – *Mr. Warren made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, Mr. Kotowski seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

LAND USE GUIDE PLAN UPDATE: Ms. Weiss Carson explained to the board the changes that she has made in updating the regional relations chapter in the land use guide plan. The major change is that there used to be only one regional relation agency and now there are three: the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, the Chagrin River Watershed Partners, and the Western Reserve Land Conservancy. Ms. Weiss Carson also updated many of the maps which include maps of the five counties in the region, a map of the commuting distance to Cleveland, a map of Russell Township and the surrounding townships, and a map of transportation modeling variables. Mrs. Steffen will ask the land conservancy if they can provide the board with a map showing conservation easements in Russell Township without showing lot lines and owner names. The board asked Ms. Weiss Carson if she could update figure #4 which is a map of the regional freeway corridors. She advised them that she had asked NOACA for an updated map and that there was not an updated version for them to provide. The information presented by figure #4 was discussed and it was concluded that there is no clear explanation available as to what the shaded 'balloon' areas along each of the corridors represents. Without this explanation, figure #4 presents little information or value to the guide plan and dropping the map out of the plan was discussed and agreed upon.

Mr. Murphy suggested that the increase in the development of office, industrial, and retail uses along the 271 corridor, (the area from Mayfield to Chagrin Heights) should be added. This has added a significant destination for work, shopping, and recreation for residents, as well as providing a poll of potential township residents on the increased numbers of people working in this corridor. Mr. Murphy asked Ms. Weiss Carson if there were any potential mass transit additions. Ms. Weiss Carson indicated that there were no plans for new road development, but the rapid transit might be expanded. The board decided that with a few additions and corrections that the chapter would be updated and ready for the new guide plan.

Mr. Warren discussed with the board the updates that he made in the environmental chapter of the land use guide plan. He explained that the primary update between the current chapter and the updated one is oil and gas. The environmental infrastructure of the township has not really been altered. Mr. Warren updated with current information, but there were no material changes that needed to be made. Sections B, C, and D are almost identical to the current version. Sub section #2 was updated with new numbers and a comparison of the old numbers and new was added. The surface water section had some changes due to water quality and fracking.

The board suggested that information on the riparian overlay be added to this chapter along with information on the phase II program that Russell Township is involved in, and information on educational programs. There should also be a section added about the 208 plan. The board would also like updated information on the wetland and forest area in the township and discussed efforts that are being made to keep the forest area. With these additions and a few corrections the board decided that the update progress was satisfactory and Mr. Warren was to bring the additions and corrections back to present within the next two meetings.

