

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE OWOSSO PLANNING COMMISSION

May 29, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wascher at 7:30 p.m.

Roll Call was taken by Secretary Baker.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ronald Baker, Mike Bradley, Mike Bruff, Gary Burk, Tracy Butcher, Dallas Lintner, Linda Robertson, William Wascher

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Frank Livingston, Cheryl Voss, two vacant positions

### MINUTES:

It was moved by Commissioner Robertson and supported by Commissioner Bruff to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 23, 2007 as presented.

AYES: All, Motion Carried

NAYS:

**Site Plan Review:**      **SPR 2007-03**      Shiawassee County Community Mental Health  
1555 Industrial Drive  
Requested by Jed Dingens

Jed Dingens, representing the SCCMH, talked about adding 27 parking in the grass area adjoining the south edge of the existing parking lot. The new spaces would be sloped back to the existing parking lot, any trees removed would be relocated east or west to the end of the parking area or new trees planted. Bumper blocks will be added to the new parking area to keep cars from getting onto the lawn.

It was moved by Commissioner Robertson and supported by Commissioner Bruff to approve the site plan as presented with the following modifications: the 27 new parking spaces would slope back to the existing parking lot, bumper blocks will be added to the south end of these parking spaces, any trees removed will be replanted to the east or west of the new parking area or new trees planted for every tree that dies during the construction period or within one year of replanting.

AYES: All, Motion Carried.

NAYS:

**ITEMS OF BUSINESS:**      Neighborhoods of Choice Program: Census Tract 304,  
Northwest and North Central Owosso Neighborhoods at Central School

Phil Hathaway, the Community Development Director, began the meeting by describing the goal of the Neighborhood of Choice Program: To foster civic collaboration to revitalize neighborhoods and reaffirm or amend neighborhood livability standards. He introduced the four Principles and Practices, and the "Actors", the City Council and Planning Commission and their rolls in improving the livability by receiving feedback from the neighborhoods and the individuals in the neighborhoods. Phil showed several tables of neighborhood census demographics comparing this neighborhood with the city, county and state. The eight programs and services that the City provides to support neighborhood life were discussed.

The audience was then asked what they liked about their neighborhood. The following comment were voiced: the Shiawassee River, the Farmers Market, aesthetic values, walkability/sidewalks, the street

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trees and private property landscaping, Fayette Square plantings, the historic value of the houses and their historic architecture, the Home Tour, the bike path, the convenience of the Owosso area, the elementary schools, and the Owosso people.

The attendees were then asked what they did not like about their neighborhood. Comments included: The use of motorboats and jet skis on the river, the dumping of debris in the river, burning and resultant smoke odor, the amount and speed of traffic on the major streets, loud speakers in cars, some rental property residents and the lack of property maintenance of the rental property, the lack of a rental inspection program.

Discussion about how the City deals with these issues at this time followed—processing of complaints by category of nuisance was detailed. It was explained that until all neighborhoods are heard, it was difficult to conclude what areas of emphasis will rise to Council action, if at all. When themes keep repeating themselves it should be a sign that administrative and/or ordinance adjustments may be in order.

General discussion included a request to spend more time about the area economy and what strategies would help employment and the incomes that would be required to buy homes and maintain them—a significant key to having livable neighborhoods. In response Phil Hathaway stated that the Owosso community is overdue for a community forum, hopefully by mid-winter '08 on strategies that will sustain the city and region during the transition from our industrial economy to a combined industrial/service economy.

A member of the audience thanked the Planning Commission for holding this meeting and Chairman Wascher thanked all of them for coming out and giving us their input.

**COMMISSIONER/CITIZEN COMMENTS:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

It was moved by Commissioner Robertson and supported by Commissioner Bruff to adjourn the meeting.

AYES: All, Motion Carried

NAYS:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

mmj

Ronald Baker  
Secretary