

CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING

November 2, 1990

MINUTES

PRESENT

R. Klattenberg, Chairman  
A. Siniscalchi  
L. Tundermann  
J. Nofi  
E. Kelsey  
K. Coley  
C. Harris  
M. Giamei  
J. Brawerman

ALSO PRESENT

A. Bickford, WRRD

ABSENT

J. Chace  
S. Faraci  
C. Peterson  
G. Russo

Chairman R. Klattenberg called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. in Room B-20 of the Municipal Building. He explained that this meeting was a continuation of the special meeting which took place on October 30th. Alternate member J. Brawerman was seated in place of regular member ~~J. Chace~~ <sup>S. Faraci</sup>. Following the roll call, E. Kelsey excused herself and left the meeting.

*due to a possible conflict of interest if street*  
Public Forum - Draft Plan of Development (Natural Resources, Open Space, Future Land Use)

No members of the public requested an opportunity to speak.

City Liaison Committee Recommendations - Draft Plan of Development (Natural Resources, Open Space, Future Land Use)

L. Tundermann, Chairman of the City Liaison Committee, led a discussion of the recommendations from the City Liaison Committee on the natural resources and open space sections of the draft plan of development. He distributed a memorandum describing the more salient Committee comments/recommendations and marked up versions of the first 16 and last 9 pages of the plan.

The following key changes to the draft plan were recommended by the Committee. The salient points were: (1) broadening the title of the chapters to be more comprehensive considering the wide diversity of environmental issues found in the "Natural Resources" chapter; (2) need to combine all goals and objectives into one chapter; (3) rewording of several of the proposed goals, particularly #1 and #2; (4) add language dealing with protection of groundwater and proper management of hazardous waste; and, (5) numerous editorial changes to be forwarded in a marked up version of the text.

Other areas discussed by the Commission members during its review of the Committee recommendations included protection of farmland and natural resources, reorganization of several chapters, air quality, noise, open space funding, definition of open space, cluster zoning, objectives of the plan, use of State and Federal technical services, definition of open space, committed versus uncommitted open space, recreation, ridgetops, greenways and retitling to the overall plan.

Following the review and discussion of the Committee recommendations, A. Siniscalchi moved, seconded by C. Harris, to reopen the public forum portion of the meeting to allow late arriving members of the public an opportunity to address the Commission. Motion passed unanimously.

A. Bickford, Westfield Residents for Rational Development, spoke about the need to expand the definition of open space under PA 490 to be made available to smaller residential lot sizes in the City. Residential land owners might be more inclined to maintain their land for open space if taxed on current rather than potential land use. She also felt that the revised open space map proposed by the Planning & Zoning Department relies too heavily on land to be acquired as open space land and this should be changed. Lastly, the proposed map has eliminated certain important open space linkages which is very undesirable.

L. Tundermann then summarized the five key points brought up by the Commission members during discussion. First, open space areas in the text and map need to be consistent. Second, there are isolated parcels of open space that should be linked. Third, all streets should be included on the open space map. Fourth, owners of small open space areas should be given an opportunity to participate in PA 490 or other open space programs of the City. Fifth, the definition of open space should be expanded to include both committed and uncommitted open space areas.

A motion was made by A. Siniscalchi, seconded by C. Harris, to congratulate the Committee for their excellent efforts, especially considering the time available to complete their work, and that the changes and other recommendations to the draft Plan of Development discussed this evening be approved and forwarded to the Planning & Zoning Commission. Motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, J. Nofi moved, seconded by A. Siniscalchi, to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. Motion was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted:

Ronald P. Klattenberg  
Acting Secretary

RPK/bds

Approved as Amended Jan 10, 1991