



**ACME TOWNSHIP
NEW URBANISM CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, January 11, 2006, 1:00 p.m.
Acme Township Hall
6042 Acme Road, Williamsburg MI 49690**

Meeting called to Order at 1:10 p.m.

Members present: D. Krause (Acting Chair), N. Veliquette
Ex-Officio members: A. Andres, Sr., Andres, Jr., L. Bussa
S. Corpe, J. Goss, M. Krakow (by phone), D. Rohn (by phone)
M. Spaniolo, S. Smith
Members Absent: P. Brink, J. Collins, L. Craig, J. Lively, T. Gokey, R. Reinhold
Staff present: N. Edwardson, Recording Secretary

The minutes of the Wednesday, January 4, 2006 meeting were received and filed.

Krause asked if anyone had an update regarding grant funding opportunities. Corpe found an article in today's *Record Eagle* about changes to the way Rotary Charities is making their grants and three upcoming information sessions about how to make applications. Rohn has spoken with Marsha Smith, their Executive Director, who says their new application materials will be posted on their website in mid-January.

Corpe has called RTKL and UDA and left voice mails, but has been unable to make personal contact about setting up interviews yet. She spoke directly to Lee Grant regarding Wade Trim.

Discussion turned to the Duany Plater-Zyberk proposal received in electronic format yesterday and in hard copy format today. Bussa felt that the firm is very well qualified, but that there are concerns with pricing (about \$400,000 including incidentals) and the fact that they cannot commit to conducting the charrette for a minimum of six months. This could drag the process on into 2007. Rohn echoed his sentiments, finding DPZ very exciting in terms of talent and experience, but cost and timeline are concerns.

Krakow noted that we are uncertain about when UDA and RTKL could conduct sessions. There is still no commitment one way or the other on any portion of the project. Without more information about what can be done with the results, concerns about a delay before the project begins seem less significant. The township and project participants haven't discussed a firm project timeline yet; they've concentrated on making a recommendation on February 7.

Bussa would be willing to entertain an interview with DPZ if we make it clear from the outset what our concerns are and if they still choose to pursue the opportunity.

Goss believes that the purpose of the advisory was to identify and recommend hiring of the best possible planner, and he believes an excellent job has been done and three outstanding firms are under consideration. There are outstanding issues between the township and the developers, and timeframe is a question, but he agrees with Krakow that timeframe should not be a disqualifier at this stage.

Motion by Veliquette, support by Krause to invite DPZ to interview.

Krause was sorry Bob Gibbs declined an invitation to bid. His expertise in retailing and commercial development would have been very valuable. However, Gibbs has partnered with DPZ on many projects in the past, and he hopes that such a partnership might arise again if DPZ is selected by the township, and would work to the township's benefit. Rohn is very excited by the strength of the three prospects on the table.

Motion carried unanimously.

Krakov will make the call to Senen Antonio to extend the invitation.

Rohn and Veliquette will research possible funding from the Frey Foundation and the WK Kellogg Foundation. ess significant. The township and project participants haven't discussed a firm project timeline yet; they've concentrated on making a recommendation on February 7.

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Veliquette asked if there were market studies available, an assessment of townships finances, kinds of businesses in the township. Corpe responded that we have all this information available.

Krause expressed concern about the township and landowners being united. He asked the landowners if that is a problem? Andres Jr. felt that we needed to frame some of these questions from all sides and put the issues on the table. A planner will melt all the issues together. Bussa commented that Dr. Johnson has a wait and see attitude.

There is no meeting scheduled for January 13, 2006.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 2:25 p.m.