

**PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GRAND RAPIDS**

Minutes of the October 20, 2003 Special Meeting

A special meeting of the Grand Rapids Charter Township Planning Commission was held at the Township Hall at approximately 4:00 p.m. on October 20, 2003. Planning Commissioners present were Steve Fry, Mike Fuller, Wayne Harrall and Dave Van Dyke. Also present was Sue Thomas, Township Planner; Mark Sisson, Planning Consultant; AI VanderBerg, Kent County Administrator and Brenda Stringer, Acting Zoo Director. Newly appointed Township Trustee Rusty Merchant also attended for a bit.

The Commission discussed Kent County's wildlife park application and the information they would like the County to provide as part of their application. The Commission requested the following information: a description of how animal waste handling impacts surface water quality, a comprehensive traffic study from an independent company, revised drawings that include property and buildings within 300 feet of the proposed wildlife park, a description of the techniques proposed to buffer nearby residences along with diagrams, a further defined description of non animal related activities and more detailed illustrations of the proposed entrance activities.

Mark Sisson stated that the wildlife park's main should be determined after a traffic study has been completed; there should be no preconceived notions where to locate the main entrance at this point. In response to Sue Thomas's question, Brenda Stringer stated that there is a maintenance entrance planned that would utilize the existing golf course's entrance. The Commission encouraged the zoo to consider having a separate temporary construction entrance. In addition, it was discussed that the Commission most likely would require a development agreement between the Township and the County regarding the wildlife park if the Commission approves the requested Special Land Use.

Brenda Stringer explained .that the zoo will be going through master plan process during the next several months with consultant Jones and Jones and that the requested information will be developed during that time. Everyone discussed meeting again to go over developments in the master plan process prior to formally coming before the Planning Commission. AI VanderBerg shared that the County would like a decision on the requested Special Land Use by the Planning Commission by March, but doesn't expect to be before the Commission again until after the first of the year.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:20 p.m.

Susan Thomas
Susan Thomas, Acting Secretary