

**Town of Porter
Plan Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2007**

A. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Roll Call / Determination of Quorum

Present: Ms. Brueckheimer, Mrs. Snyder, Mr. Timm, Mr. Eriksson, Mr. Stinson,
Mr. Childress, and Mr. Bell

Absent: None

Also present were Mr. Lyp, Mr. Mandon, and Mrs. Mitchell

D. Consideration of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2007 meeting was made by Mr. Eriksson; second by Mr. Timm. Motion carried via voice approval.

E. Audience Participation

None

F. Old Business and Matters Tabled

Final detailed plan approval for the property located at U.S. 20 and Babcock Road in Porter – Attorney Chuck Lukman for Ramesh Savani.

The Town Hall received a letter from Mr. Lukman stating that his client would like their request postponed until the November meeting. Motion to table the matter until the November meeting was made by Mr. Timm; second by Ms. Brueckheimer. Motion carried 7 – 0.

G. New Business

None

H. Preliminary Hearing

None

I. Public Hearing

Application for subdivision approval made by Joe Ennis for the property located at 23rd Street and Krieger Street in Porter.

Mr. Matt Keiser from the Duneland Group represented Joe Ennis and presented the proposed subdivision to the Plan Commission. The proposed subdivision would

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consists of 5 lots and Mr. Ennis has received approval for drainage into the Peterson Ditch. Mr. Mandon stated that he likes the proposal because the hired engineer has solved the existing drainage issues from the current lots and the proposed new lots.

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:43.

Those in favor of the petition – none

Those in favor of the petition:

Gary Campaniello – 750 Marquette, Porter
Mike Campaniello – 750 Marquette, Porter
Tom Leasure – 470 East 1000 North, Chesterton (passed out pictures of drainage issue with his rental properties in the area of the proposed subdivision)
Joelyn Leasure – 470 East 1000 North, Chesterton
Jessie Campaniello – 750 Marquette, Porter

All residents expressed their deep concerns of an existing drainage issue. They stated that they have been told in the past by other builders that the problem would be taken care of but the problem has only gotten worse. They asked for guarantees from the Commission that the problem would be taken care of.

Mr. Mandon stated that the primary reason for the existing drainage issue is that the contractor never did what he said he was going to do. He believes that this proposal for the subdivision will not get rid of the property water completely, but will provide drainage for current property owners. They will have to tap into the system, but Mr. Mandon believes it is a great benefit to the concerned residents.

Mr. Lyp informed the residents that the Town of Porter could go after the pervious builder who did not hold up his end of the drainage deal.

The Public Hearing was closed at 8:14.

Mr. Keiser was given the opportunity to refute questions raised by the concerned residents concerning the drainage issues. The builder is fiscally bonded to the Town of Porter. If he fails to install the infrastructure that he is proposing, the Town of Porter, can use the money to put into the infrastructure. The amount of money bonded to the Town has not been agreed upon, but is being determined by the Town engineer. Mr. Keiser stated that the Duneland Group and Ennis Builders “stand behind their product.”

Mr. Timm agreed with Mr. Mandon and encouraged the residents to tie into the new storm drainage.

Mr. Eriksson stated that he believes the Commission does what is in the Town’s best interest when they make their decisions.

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Ms. Brueckheimer stated that there has been a flooding issue in this area for over 40 years (at least). She feels that it is huge expense on the part of Ennis Builders to install this drainage system and that it is a step in the right direction to fix the existing problem.

Mr. Keiser also mentioned that they are going to keep as much of the existing tree line as possible.

Motion to approve the petition and the drainage system as stated by the Duneland Group was made by Mr. Eriksson; second by Mr. Childress. Motion approved 7 – 0.

J. Finding of Fact

None

K. Comments from Plan Commission Attorney

None

L. Comments from Plan Commission Secretary

None

M. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Childress; second by Mrs. Snyder. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:32 p.m.

Lorain Bell
Chairman

Kara Mitchell
Secretary