

# Allegan County Board of Commissioners



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**Mark DeYoung, Chairman**  
**Tom Jessup, Vice Chairman**

DISTRICT 1  
Terry Burns  
616-403-0427  
tburns@  
allegancounty.org

## **COUNTY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING – Minutes (Approved 6/23/11)**

Thursday, June 9, 2011 @ 8:00 A.M.

Board Conference Room – County Services Building

DISTRICT 2  
Steve McNeal  
269-751-7271  
smcneal@  
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### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Van Eck called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

DISTRICT 3  
Paul VanEck  
616-688-5619  
pvaneck@  
allegancounty.org

### **ROLL CALL:**

Paul Van Eck, Committee Chairman  
Tom Jessup, Committee Vice-Chairman  
Steve McNeal, Committee Member  
Bill Sage, Committee Member  
Jon Campbell, Committee Member (Arrived 8:06 AM)

DISTRICT 4  
Mark DeYoung  
616-681-9413  
mdeyoung@  
allegancounty.org

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Kelle Tobolic, Planning Commission  
Fritz Spreitzer, Planning Commission  
Gale Dugan, Planning Commission  
Mark DeYoung, BOC Chairman  
Max Thiele, Commissioner  
Robert Sarro, County Administrator  
Denise Stan, Executive Assistant - Administration  
Valdis Kalnins, LIS Director  
Kevin Ricco, Community Development Director  
Don Black, Commissioner (Joined Meeting 8:33 AM)

DISTRICT 5  
Dean Kapenga  
269-751-8586  
dkapenga@  
allegancounty.org

DISTRICT 6  
Max R. Thiele  
269-673-4514  
mthiele@  
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DISTRICT 7  
Don Black  
269-792-6446  
dblack@  
allegancounty.org

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by McNeal, supported by Sage to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

DISTRICT 8  
Tom Jessup  
269-637-3374  
tjessup@  
allegancounty.org

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** April 28, 2011

Motion by Jessup, supported by Sage to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion carried unanimously.

DISTRICT 9  
Bill Sage  
269-673-5435  
bsage@  
allegancounty.org

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

There was no public comment.

DISTRICT 10  
Jon C. Campbell  
269-694-4632  
jcampbell@  
allegancounty.org

DISTRICT 11  
Larry "Casey" Jones  
269-664-5362  
lcjones@  
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## ITEMS:

### **County Planning Commission (PC) – continued discussion**

#### **Review options for continuance of PC—**

Rob – July 1 is set within the statute for automatic continuance of the PC. Could establish the ordinance after the date. There is a public hearing and public notice if we do decide to have the ordinance.

Gale – recapped the PC proposal. Feels with Rob's guidance and the proposal as put forward they believe it would work.

Tom – the document distributed today is what all parties have come up with? Gale indicated yes.

This proposal frames a consensus if the Board was to choose that path; the document is the structure to do that. They have not looked at any other options. This proposal is one of the CSC's options. If they want to continue all have agreed the highlighted brief history, goals; it details what a structure would look like going forward. The PC feels the zoning reviews are important to continue. Local reviews would continue and still recommending continuance of a separate focused economic development commission. Regardless of the CSC recommendation, the Board has to decide whether they can have one; they don't have to have one. Either way they have to decide – project reviews are required. All is discretionary, but if you have a PC it is mandatory to do project reviews. Master plan decisions are required unless waived.

Steve wondered if there was a way to make the reviews discretionary. If they want to have the PC review them, they can, if not, they won't. If we don't waive ordinance review, there is not an option to place a County review step before local review. If we don't waive, we have to do as prescribed by the law (they make decision and County reviews). We can do it as a discretionary issue.

Tom – the township board makes final decisions, but in the process of local reviews, it's going to go into an inventory. Somehow you have to know what is going on in all the townships and cities.

Kevin – re reviews, he understand the statute says if we have PC and waive the reviews, the local units are still obligated to send reviews to the PC. We'll get hem for inventory sake but they wouldn't be reviewed for comment. If someone calls ED, he will defer them to the township; he doesn't want to open up any legal liabilities by trying to give them information on the township.

Valdis – its value on a macro scale (future land use plans) in terms of zoning ordinances they are so granular, that type of inventory would be useless on an economic development (ED) standpoint.

Rob – clarified that he thought if we decided to waive the reviews we would not have to receive them, but we could still create a process that they would supply them to us.

Kelle – would like to do more, not less.

Rob – in the PC proposal it is outlines local reviews to continue. He highlighted legal counsel answers to regional questions.

Jon – we should not do the metropolitan PC due to the fiduciary responsibilities that the County would be required to take on. Gale – the PC can work not as a metropolitan

**Review options, make recommendation for Board of Commissioners Meeting 6/9/11**

Tom – recommends doing this plan. Committee did a good job in doing what the Board of Commissioners (BOC) asked them to do.

Rob – agrees the PC plan outlines exactly what needs to be done if we go with a PC. If the BOC wants to move forward with ordinance, it would approve plan as presented and authorize administration draft an ordinance based on the plan. Steve – government needs to have a real purpose or its not worthwhile; and not just do it because it's what we've done in the past. Some things that the PC does that he doesn't like, there are things that the county needs to improve on. He would like to continue optional reviews of county projects; if the BOC wants it, we send it to them. Also local units, if they don't want the PC to review, they won't. He doesn't know if the PC is the right venue.

Bill – before we spend any money he wants to ultimately go along with keeping the PC.

Jon – the questionnaire was only one tool for looking at this point. He doesn't have a problem using this plan as the outline to help create the ordinance. His question is in the event we didn't do it today (ordinance), we still can do this at any point in time. If we did do this today, and it doesn't achieve what we intended it to do.

Rob – there is a resolution that would dissolve the PC. The difficulty is the act doesn't have a dissolution section. From a legal perspective, they would argue if there is doubt, we probably shouldn't create one. The fact that it is a discretionary body, the BOC could do. He doesn't have a problem going forward using this as a template to build the ordinance.

Rob – we have some work to do as a partnership. But if we do the PC we all need to work hand-in-hand. We need to keep benchmarks out there. This plan should still develop outcomes and check them every 3-5 years. This plan falls within the strategic plan recently adopted by the BOC for steady growth objectives.

**Motion by Commissioner Jessup, supported by Commissioner Sage to recommend the plan developed by the PC be used as a template for a new PC ordinance, be brought to the BOC meeting in the afternoon for their review and consideration. Motion carried unanimously.**

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

Thanks - Don commented with regards to serving on subcommittees and the County's shrinking revenue. Paul thanked the PC for their attention to the matter. Mark thanked the County Services and its subcommittee that worked on the plan. Hopefully we can move forward and have positive results.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by McNeal, supported by Campbell to adjourn the meeting at 9:57 AM. All in favor, motion carried unanimously. Next Meeting – TBD.

Minutes submitted by Denise Stan, Executive Assistant - Administration