

## HURON TOWNSHIP ZONING COMMISSION

March 11, 2009

Chairman Schlessman called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Huron Township Zoning Commission to order at 7:00 PM., on Wednesday, March 11, 2009. The meeting was held in the Township Office, 1820 Bogart Road, Huron, Ohio. Attending were Jim Palinkas, Ray Vacca, Ron Cook, Mary Schlessman, and Ed Taylor. Also in attendance was Building Official John Zimmerman.

In the first order of business, the minutes of the October 1, 2008, meeting were approved as printed.

The second order of business was consideration of an amendment to the existing Planned Unit Development Plan for the Kalahari Resort, Milan Road. Mr. Zimmerman explained the request which includes an African Safari animal attraction on the south side of the complex between the existing condominium building and the south wing of the hotel, a tent on the north side adjacent to the convention center for outside events during the spring, summer, and fall months, and an eighty (80) bed employee dormitory on the east side adjacent to the existing maintenance building. He concluded his remarks by telling the commission that Erie Regional Planning had recommended approval of the request. Brian Shanle, General Manager of the resort, gave the Commission a brief description of the request and turned the explanation of the animal safari over to Bill Coburn who will be responsible for procuring and maintaining the animals. Mr. Coburn said there would be no cats but there would be other animals normally found in Africa. (Examples were kangaroos, camels, giraffes, zebras, antelopes, and various birds.) He continued that the facility will be inspected and approved by the USDA. He said that the USDA requires an eight (8) foot animal containment fence around the facility. Chairman Schlessman opened the floor to the audience. Donna Ostheimer, 7211 Milan Road, asked numerous questions about the animal operation. Todd Sommer, 3910 Bogart Road, asked about the employee dormitory and the associated lighting. Mr. Zimmerman said that "dark sky" lighting is required. David Held, 315 Fox Road, asked about the security of the dormitory building and Mr. Shanle said the Kalahari security staff would closely monitor the building. He also asked about the care of the animals. Mr. Coburn said they had a vet on staff as required by the USDA. With no further questions from the audience, Ms. Schlessman told the audience that she feels that Kalahari has been a good neighbor and that they have done anything asked of them by the Township. She said the resort has been a great addition to the Township and feels that this amendment to the PUD will follow the general theme of the resort. She then asked for a motion from the Commission. **Mr. Cook made a motion to recommend to the Township Trustees that this amendment to the Kalahari PUD be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Palinkas and passed unanimously.**

Next on the agenda was consideration of an amendment to the Zoning Resolution outlining regulations for Wind Energy Conversion Systems. Mr. Zimmerman explained that this amendment addresses both residential and commercial wind turbines. He said Erie Regional had also recommended approval of this. There followed a brief discussion on the various aspects of the amendment. Ms. Schlessman told the Commission that each manufacturer also has regulations that cover their tower and turbines and that she agrees that the Township should be prepared. She said this amendment seems to address every aspect of wind turbine installations. She then called for a motion. **Mr. Cook made a motion to recommend approval of the Wind Energy Conversion System amendment to the Township Trustees. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

The fourth item on the agenda was the review and approval of the current zoning map. Mr. Vacca made a motion to recommend approval of the current zoning map to the Township Trustees. Mr. Palinkas seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

With no further business for the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM..

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Chairman Mary Schlessman

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Secretary John A. Zimmerman