

MINUTES
McLEAN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2008, 4:00 P.M.
GOVERNMENT CENTER, ROOM 404
115 EAST WASHINGTON STREET, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Members Present:

Bernard Anderson, Chair; Carl Teichman, Vice-Chair; George Benjamin, Joseph Butcher, Mary Jefferson, Mark Klinger, Jay Reece, Shane Rutherford

Members Absent:

Chris Brauer, Don Fernandes

Others Present:

McLean County Regional Planning Commission: Paul Russell, Executive Director; Jennifer Sicks, Transportation Planner; Teresa Casselman, Office Manager. City of Bloomington: Tim Potts, Assistant City Planner. Town of Normal: Lauren Sunkel, Assistant Town Planner. McLean County: Mike Behary, County Planner. Farm Bureau: Linda Olson. Laurie Wollrab.

Call To Order:

Mr. Anderson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Consent Agenda:

Mr. Anderson asked if any Commission members wished to remove items from the consent agenda; no requests for removal were made. Mr. Benjamin moved that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented. Ms. Jefferson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Items of Information or Discussion:

Review Mission Statement and Guiding Principles

Mr. Russell explained the mission statement and guiding principles had been included for the benefit of new commissioners and as a reminder while developing the work program for the next fiscal year. He asked if there were any questions or desire to make refinements to the mission statement and guiding principles. Mr. Anderson asked how often the mission statement was revised. Mr. Russell responded the wording of the mission statement had been revised within the past few years, but no significant changes had been made.

Activities Planned for Inclusion in Fiscal Year 2009 Work Program

Mr. Russell reviewed the list of work activities in the proposed work program for the Fiscal Year 2009 beginning July 1. He explained two administrative categories were planned, and work on the Regional Comprehensive Plan was a carryover activity from FY08. Mr. Anderson asked who was serving on the committee for the Regional Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Russell stated some of the same people who had been involved in the 2000 plan had been asked to serve on the update committee, as well as some new members with particular interests or expertise. Mr. Anderson asked if a draft plan was available yet. Mr. Russell indicated the committee was working on the plan one chapter at a time and had completed seven chapters. Mr. Anderson asked when the draft might be completed. Mr. Russell explained the draft would be delayed until summer to reflect the outcome of the East Side Highway Study.

Mr. Russell indicated the Consolidated Housing Plan was a new activity involving data collection and mapping for Bloomington-Normal to be used for their Community Development Block Grant programs. Greenways Coordination was an ongoing activity working with the Greenways Advisory Committee, and General, Transportation, and Information Technical Assistance were ongoing activities as well. Ongoing transportation activities included Long Range Transportation Plan, Development Monitoring, Transportation Improvement Program, and Transit/Bikeway Coordination. New transportation-related activities included Human Services Transportation Plan Maintenance and Travel Demand Modeling. He explained GIS Coordination and Education and Outreach were other ongoing activities.

Key Actions and Discussion Points

Mr. Russell indicated the Key Actions and Discussion Points report had been included in Commission packets for use by the commission members, but required staff time to compile and asked if the report was useful to them. It was the consensus of the commission members that the report could be deleted from the packet.

Information Forum

Mr. Russell reminded those present that the annual information forum was scheduled for Wednesday, April 9, at 7:00 a.m. at the Doubletree Conference Center. He noted the general admission cost is \$10, but the commission would cover the cost of admission for commission members and staff. He reminded the commission members to return the reservation card to Mr. Nolan or Ms. Casselman, who will report the proper number to the Doubletree. Mr. Klinger asked how long the presentation was scheduled to last. Mr. Russell estimated the program would end at 9:00 a.m. at the latest.

Winter 2008 Issue of Planning Commissioners Journal

Mr. Anderson indicated the articles concerning downtowns was interesting, but not a new problem. He indicated downtowns in many smaller communities in central Illinois are in need of revitalization, and while much of the City of Bloomington's growth is to the east, it should not lose sight of its downtown and needs to focus additional planning on that area. Mr. Russell indicated the Regional Plan committee includes representation by those with knowledge of existing conditions, and a direct interest and expertise in addressing blighted areas in downtown areas.

Mr. Benjamin asked what factors had resulted in the delay of the East Side Highway study. Mr. Russell explained the extensive public participation process had slowed the project and increased costs. He explained the traffic model still needed to be run on all alternatives, including the original recommended alignment.

Adjournment:

Mr. Teichman moved to adjourn. Mr. Reece seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Teresa Casselman
Office Manager