

**MINUTES**  
**McLEAN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR MEETING, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2006**  
**GOVERNMENT CENTER, ROOM 404**  
**115 EAST WASHINGTON STREET, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS**

**Members Present:**

Don Fernandes, Chair; Scott Lay, Vice-Chair; Chris Brauer, Erin Elder, Jeff Kowalczyk, Shane Rutherford, Janet Smith, Carl Teichman

**Members Absent:**

Bernard Anderson, Mark Klinger

**Others Present:**

McLean County Regional Planning Commission: Paul Russell, Executive Director; Khalid Hasan, GIS Director; Rick Nolan, Community Planner; Jennifer Sicks, Transportation Planner; Teresa Casselman, Office Manager. City of Bloomington: Tim Potts, Associate Planner. Town of Normal: Mercy Davison, Town Planner. McLean County: Mike Behary, County Planner.

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Chairman Fernandes.

**Consent Agenda:**

Mr. Russell explained that an office server crash had prevented the mailing of a full Commission packet and added that two consistency review reports had been added to the Consent Agenda. Mr. Nolan gave a brief overview of the consistency reviews for Crossroads Centre and the White Oak Wind Farm. Mr. Lay asked about the approval process for the wind farm. Mr. Behary responded that the public hearing would be held in January, and if the project was approved, building permits would be issued. Mr. Teichman indicated his employer had an interest in the wind farm, and he would abstain from the vote. Mr. Fernandes explained the vote would accept the reports of the Consent Agenda. Ms. Smith moved to accept the Consent Agenda and Mr. Kowalczyk seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with Mr. Teichman abstaining.

**Regular Agenda:**

Election of Officers for Calendar Year 2007

Ms. Casselman tabulated the ballots and announced the results of the election of officers. Mr. Fernandes was elected Chairman for 2007; Ms. Brauer was elected Vice-Chair.

## **Items of Information or Discussion:**

### Report on GIS Day Event

Mr. Hasan reported that GIS Day had been well received and had been attended by over 100 persons with a wide mix of community interests. He indicated the Town of Normal, City of Bloomington, and McLean County had declared November 15 as GIS Day, and officials from each had been present. He indicated it had proved to be a great opportunity and outreach. Mr. Russell added that this year's event had been the best GIS Day ever and the GIS Technical Committee should be commended for their effort in organizing and advertising the event.

### Report on Image Preference Survey meeting

Mr. Teichman reported that the first public meeting for the Main Street Redevelopment Plan had been held November 30, and despite the winter storm, over 100 persons attended. He reported that the focus of the meeting was an Image Preference Survey, which consisted of showing two images side by side and asking the audience to rank the images using a -5 to +5 scale. He reported that in general the participants preferred more landscaping, less parking, public seating, limiting the height of buildings, increasing the distance from curb to tall buildings, lower and more creative signage, bus structures and bike lanes. He reported that the next step in the planning process will be three planning charettes to be tentatively held January 23rd, 24th, or 25th, with one being held at Illinois State University, one at Illinois Wesleyan University, and one at the Government Center. He reported that the evening had been a productive one, and Mr. Russell added that he had heard positive comments about the meeting as well.

### Planning Commissioners Journal

Mr. Russell stated the feature article in the latest issue was on the topic of planning for cemeteries. He indicated the article stated that most cemetery planning consisted of crisis planning, but there were good reasons to include cemeteries in planning efforts since they increase open space and have historic value. He stated the issue had other shorter articles including ones on effective ways to communicate smart growth concepts, community safety, and recycling Main Street including green building techniques. Ms. Davison added that the Town had been involved in helping downtown property owners with energy retrofits to bring energy efficiency to older buildings, while maintaining their historic concepts. Mr. Russell asked about the incorporation of innovative building techniques such as green roofs. Ms. Davison explained green roofing had been considered for the Children's Discovery Museum, but the additional accessibility features required made the technique cost prohibitive.

### Next Commission Meeting

Mr. Fernandes indicated it had been common in previous years that the January Commission meeting was canceled due to the holidays and lack of agenda items. It was decided the January meeting would be canceled, but could be rescheduled if any urgent business needed action.

### That Which May Arise

Ms. Sicks reported that all four municipalities as well as the Logan County board had approved the draft plans, and the next step was production of the final copies for delivery. Ms. Smith reported the December meeting would be her last meeting, and Joe Butcher would be appointed as her replacement.

### **Adjournment:**

Mr. Teichman moved the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Brauer seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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Teresa Casselman  
Office Manager