

MINUTES
McLEAN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
RESCHEDULED MEETING, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2016, 4:00 P.M.
GOVERNMENT CENTER, ROOM 404
115 EAST WASHINGTON STREET, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Members Present:

Mary Jefferson, Chair; Michael Buragas, Vice-chair; Michael Gorman, Glen Ludwig, Carl Olson, Carl Teichman, Mark Wylie

Members Absent:

Mary Kramp, Linda Olson, Tyler Wrezinski

Others Present:

Vasudha Pinnamaraju, Executive Director; Melissa Dougherty-O'Hara, Planner; Jamal Smith, Assistant Planner; Daniel Handel, Assistant Planner; Khalid Hasan, GIS Director; Teresa Casselman, Office Manager - McLean County Regional Planning Commission; Hira Aamir, Planner - McLean County; Meredith Nelson - OSF St. Joseph Medical Center; Melissa Johnston-Gross; Holly Ambuehl - United Way of McLean County; Nicole Aune - McLean County Health Department; Sally Gambacorta - Advocate BroMenn Medical Center; Gretchen Monti

Call To Order:

Ms. Jefferson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and noted the presence of a quorum.

Public Comment:

None

Consent Agenda:

Mr. Wylie moved the Consent Agenda be approved as presented. Mr. Teichman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Items of Information or Discussion:

Introduction of Staff Member

Ms. Pinnamaraju introduced Daniel Handel, who was hired as Assistant Planner. Mr. Handel stated he was from Madison, Wisconsin, and his interests are multi modal transportation systems and transit-oriented development.

Presentations

Community Health Needs Assessment

Ms. Pinnamaraju explained that United Way had played a key role in bringing OSF, Advocate BroMenn, and the McLean County Health Department together for a joint Community Health Needs Assessment. Ms. Aune of the McLean County Health Department expressed her appreciation for MCRPC and for putting health into the planning process. She indicated public health is increasingly looking at the built environment and policy strategies to improve citizens' health.

She indicated this was the first time the four entities had come together to conduct a collaborative community health needs assessment that will inform a joint community health implementation plan. She said in the past the four had conducted separate needs assessments that produced similar results and identified similar health priorities.

She reported an emphasis on local disparities, that is differences in the population such as geography, race, ethnicity, age, or gender. She said they collected primary data by in-person and online surveys, and noted they exceeded their targets for general population and low income population. She reported secondary data included Healthy Communities Institute, a data repository for community information, that can break the data down by zip code, age, gender, race, and ethnic group, which helped inform them regarding local disparities.

She reported their steering committee identified 13 health indicators that were trending unfavorably overall, were getting worse over time or worse than state and national trends, or had severe health disparities. She said a community health council further narrowed those indicators to six health issues: appropriate access to health care, behavioral health including mental health and substance use, birth outcomes, obesity, oral health, and respiratory disease. Ms. Aune said it became apparent that access issues and disparities were common themes when looking at the data. She said a comprehensive report was available on their websites.

Ms. Aune reported that despite McLean County having a median income that exceeds state and national averages, a high percentage of individuals with higher education degrees, and high population growth, local disparities exist. She said the Healthy Communities Institute's SocioNeeds Index provides scores by zip code in six factors: poverty, education, unemployment, occupation, income, and language, which are social determinants of health. In McLean County, the zip codes of highest need are 61701, 61774, 61726, and 61728. Ms. Aune highlighted the disparity of health issues between McLean County as a whole versus the black population and the 61701 zip code.

Ms. Aune described other local disparities with access to healthy food and obesity. McLean County has fewer farmer's markets per 1,000 and more fast food restaurants when compared to the US. Grocery store density has increased in McLean County, but 61701 remains a food desert. Ms. Pinnamaraju asked for more information about obesity rates. Ms. Aune reported McLean County had obesity rates of 32.1 percent with a combined overweight and obesity rate of 64.2 percent. She added that those rates are worse than and rising faster than state and national rates. Ms. Pinnamaraju commented that obesity is usually tied to communities with lower income and lower educational levels, which is not the case with McLean County. A discussion about obesity and the built environment followed.

Ms. Aune reported that the six top issues had been narrowed down to three. and the final McLean County health priorities were behavioral health, access, and obesity. The following goals were established.

- **Access to Appropriate Health Care** : By 2020, decrease barriers to utilizing primary care in 61701 in order to reduce use of hospital emergency departments for non-emergency conditions.
- **Behavior Health** By 2020, increase coping skills to reduce deaths due to suicide and emergency room visits due to self-inflicted injury and alcohol abuse. Reduce behavioral health stigma to increase earlier access to care.
- **Obesity**: By 2020, Pursue policy, system and environmental changes to maintain or increase the percentage of people living at a healthy body weight in McLean County.

Invest in Health Project

Ms. Ambuehl presented the background of the Invest Health project. Invest Health was a national project launched by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that project targets mid-sized communities, and Bloomington is eligible according to grant requirements. She said their proposal to the foundation named a a short-term goal of supporting healthy behaviors by increasing access to healthy foods in 61701 and a longer-term goal of supporting access to health care.

Ms. Ambuehl said the national project goal is to “Fundamentally change the way cities improve opportunities for their citizens to live healthy lives.” She said she wanted the Regional Planning Commission to be involved in their process and long-term goals, and suggested supporting health when planning and remember carless households, recruit businesses that provide jobs and food and health care resources that are absent in west Bloomington, and co-location of services to locate primary care, healthy food, and other services in one place. Ms. Pinnamaraju stated the Commission would stay involved in these issues as the built environment has a relationship with health.

Ms. Pinnamaraju explained why health should be considered in the planning process and recommended the Commission endorse the Community Health Needs Assessment report. She indicated it would be placed as an action item for the October meeting.

2017 Information Forum

Ms. Pinnamaraju reported Ed McMahon had been the preferred choice as a speaker for the information forum, had been contacted, and was available April 18. She acknowledged Mr.Ludwig’s preference for a speaker for the topic of open government and transparency and said this could be a topic for a future information forum.

Adjournment:

Mr. Teichman moved for adjournment. Mr. Buragas seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Casselman
Office Manager