

MINUTES
McLEAN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MCRPC)
REGULAR MEETING, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2016, 4:00 P.M.
GOVERNMENT CENTER, ROOM 404
115 EAST WASHINGTON STREET, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Members Present:

Mary Jefferson (Chairman); Joseph Cleary, Michael Gorman, Mary Kramp, Carl Olson, Linda Olson, Mark Wylie

Members Absent:

Michael Buragas (Vice Chairman), Glen Ludwig, Tyler Wrezinski

Others Present:

MCRPC staff: Vasudha Pinnamaraju, Executive Director; Melissa Dougherty-O'Hara, Planner; Daniel Handel, Assistant Planner; Khalid Hasan, GIS Director; Jennifer Sicks, Transportation Planner; Jamal Smith, Assistant Planner; *City of Bloomington:* Katie Simpson, Planner; *McLean County:* Hira Aamir, Planner; Victoria Harris, County Board (District 7); Craig Nelson, Director of Information Technologies; *Town of Normal:* Mercy Davison, Planner; Taylor Long, Associate Planner; Teri Legner, Director of Information Technology

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

Regular Agenda:

Item A: FY2017 Financial Audit (presentation: Mary Ann Webb and Rory McCue)

Ms. Webb and Mr. McCue, of the accounting firm Sulaski and Webb, presented an overview of the FY2016 financial audit they performed for MCRPC. Ms. Webb said that the financial statements submitted by MCRPC were unmodified by the auditors, indicating that they accurately represented the agency's financial status as initially presented by MCRPC staff. She noted that there were several new auditing standards and a few minor adjustments that were applied to the FY2016 audit, mostly having to do with pension reporting requirements. She said that none of these significant impact on the audit's conclusions. She and Mr. McCue then took commissioners' questions about specific pieces of the report.

When all questions had been answered, Mr. Teichman moved to accept the report as presented. Mr. Gorman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Item B: Resolution seeking amendment to the March 2001 Intergovernmental Agreement for Countywide GIS Development and Maintenance in McLean County, Illinois

Ms. Pinnamaraju presented a resolution seeking amendment to the intergovernmental agreement by which MCRPC leads the McLean County Geographic Information Systems (MCGIS) Consortium and integrates it into MCRPC's institutional structure. The purpose of this resolution (along Item C) was to clear the way to abolish the agreement.

Ms. Pinnamaraju explained that when the agreement was first put in place, MCRPC was the only governmental entity in McLean County with serious GIS capabilities, and was thus a natural leader of the consortium; today, the City of Bloomington, the Town of Normal, and the County all have robust GIS systems and can more efficiently provide GIS services than MCRPC. As such, Ms. Pinnamaraju said that it is no longer necessary for MCRPC to host MCGIS. She also noted that under the current system, various agencies and organizations that would benefit from GIS data do not have the level of access they should. This new consortium would be run by the City, the Town, and the County, the entities most capable of managing it efficiently, and will make data equally available to MCRPC and a number of other entities.

Mr. Gorman asked Ms. Pinnamaraju to confirm that the commission would only be abolishing the current consortium in this meeting, noting that there was no replacement agreement in the commission envelope. Ms. Pinnamaraju said he was correct: the purpose of this resolution was to authorize the amendment of the intergovernmental agreement at any time by the mutual consent of the parties, which would then allow the commission to empower Chairman Jefferson to execute the termination documents (see Item C). She clarified that no replacement agreement was included because MCRPC will not be a member of the new consortium.

Mr. Gorman asked what data MCRPC will have access to after the current agreement is abolished. Ms. Pinnamaraju directed the question to Mr. Nelson, the County IT Director. Mr. Nelson responded that the goal of the new consortium will be to make the data as widely available as possible, with certain security restrictions. Ms. Legner, the Town of Normal IT Director, confirmed this.

Mr. Teichman asked whether individual consortium members will be able to make data unavailable as they see fit. Ms. Legner said that questions of that sort would have to be resolved through discussions among the new consortium's members. Ms. Dougherty-O'Hara asked whether any data currently available to MCRPC or the general public will be made unavailable under the new agreement. Mr. Nelson indicated that he was not aware of any such retractions.

Mr. Gorman noted that the City, Town, and County are not consistent in the data they collect or how they present it, and asked whether the new agreement would improve this situation. Ms. Legner said that will be the goal, part of the broader effort to make the new system as easy to use and understand as possible.

Chairman Jefferson asked for a motion to approve the amendment. Mr. Gorman so moved, and Mr. Teichman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Item C: Resolution empowering the Chair to execute documents seeking to terminate the Intergovernmental Agreement for Countywide GIS Development and Maintenance in McLean County

The purpose of this resolution was to use the ability provided by the resolution seeking amendment (Item B) to empower the Chair to execute the necessary documents to terminate the current intergovernmental agreement. Mr. Wyle moved to approve. Mr. Gorman seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Jefferson asked

whether she should sign the documents now. Ms. Pinnamaraju said that resolutions B and C permitted her to sign them at any time and thereby give MCRPC's consent to terminate the agreement.

Item D: Endorsement of *Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA)*

Ms. Pinnamaraju asked if there were any remaining questions about the CHNA, a summary of which had been presented at the September commission meeting by the United Way, the McLean County Health Department, and the two hospitals.

Ms. Olson and Ms. Kramp, noting that the report and the presentation had discussed the West Side of Bloomington as an area of concern, asked how the West Side was defined. Ms. Pinnamaraju said that she was not sure of their exact definition and that defining the West Side can be difficult. She added that although the report had identified the entire area with the zip code 61701 as an area with subpar health outcomes, the primary focus for implementation would be in the western half of 61701.

Ms. Olson asked what sort of action would be taken by MCRPC in response to the report. Ms. Pinnamaraju replied that the Bring it on Bloomington Comprehensive Plan focused attention on the relationships between land use and health and the disparities between the east and west sides. She said staff intended to keep working closely with the MCWC to ensure that all planning efforts take health into account.

Ms. Olson asked whether the Town and City would be involved in implementing the CHNA's recommendations. Ms. Simpson, the Bloomington City Planner, said she was on the CHNA implementation committee and that Tom Dabareiner, the Director of the Community Development department, has been heavily involved in the Invest Health initiative. Ms. Davison, the Town of Normal Planner, pointed to the Refugee Food Forest and various initiatives promoting active transportation as evidence of the Town's commitment.

Ms. Olson asked whether the Lofts Northend apartment complex (a consistency review of which was approved earlier in the meeting as part of the consent agenda) was consistent with this health focus given that it is not near a grocery store and appeared not to have any transit connection in the documents provided. Ms. Davison said the developer is in serious discussions with Connect Transit to integrate a sheltered transit stop into the complex and modify Connect Transit's route to bring a bus to that location, and that even if that does not happen, there is a sidewalk connecting the complex to the nearby Heartland Community College transit stop. She said that the Town would make every effort to ensure that active transportation is facilitated to the greatest extent possible in any future developments.

Ms. Pinnamaraju added that the consistency review form will have to be updated to reflect up-to-date thinking about best practices, including planning for active transportation. She also said staff would work with Connect Transit to identify clear standards for when new developments should trigger the addition of a bus stop or increased service frequency.

Mr. Teichman moved to endorse the CHNA. Ms. Olson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Items of Information or Discussion:

Introduction of new member

Mr. Joseph Cleary, attending his first MCRPC meeting as a commissioner, introduced himself to the rest of the commission. He is a Unit 5 School Board member and represents Unit 5 at MCRPC.

Eastside Highway public meeting

Mr. Gorman asked for more information concerning the upcoming public meeting about the East Side Highway. Ms. Sicks responded that the meeting would be at Central Catholic High School on Wednesday, October 19, 2016, from 6-9 PM. Its focus would be on the final East Side Highway Environmental Assessment, completed in August of this year, and a proposed program to monitor the conditions on the East Side that might eventually trigger construction.

LRTP survey

Ms. Dougherty-O'Hara reminded the commission that the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) survey is still open but will be closing in the next couple of weeks. She asked them to share the survey link or paper surveys with anyone they know.

Regional Housing Study

Ms. Pinnamaraju updated the commission on the Regional Housing Study process. She notified the group that there will be focus group meetings, hosted by MCRPC staff and RATIO (the consultant), on October 13 and 14.

Adjournment:

Mr. Gorman moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:47. Ms. Olson seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamal Smith, Assistant Planner