

MINUTES
McLEAN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 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; Joseph Cleary, Michael Gorman, Mary Kramp, Carl Olson, Linda Olson, Carl Teichman, Mark Wylie, Tyler Wrezinski

Members Absent:

Glen Ludwig

Others Present:

McLean County Regional Planning Commission - Vasudha Pinnamaraju, Executive Director; Melissa Dougherty-O'Hara, Planner; Jamal Smith, Assistant Planner; Daniel Handel, Assistant Planner; Teresa Casselman, Office Manager; Town of Normal – Mercy Davison, Planner; Taylor Long, Assistant Planner; City of Bloomington – Katie Simpson; Jordan Brown

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. Ms. Olson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Regular Agenda:

Consistency Review

Ms. Simpson presented information regarding the amended preliminary plan for the Business Park at Nord Farms. She indicated the project consisted of approximately 36 acres on the west side of Bloomington. She noted the project received a "C" rating. She reported the project doesn't provide minimum features, but some features may not be applicable in this case.

Ms. Olson asked if there were plans to add landscaping or otherwise improve the appearance of the business. Ms. Pinnamaraju indicated that, though not specific to this project, plans have indicated the desirability of enhancements to community entrances. Ms. Simpson added that the project will be held to the same landscaping standards as provided for by the zoning code.

Mr. Gorman moved to approve the consistency review as presented. Ms. Kramp seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Amended FY2017 Budget

Ms. Pinnamaraju reported the FY2017 budget amendment was being presented as an action item without revising the Unified Work Program. She indicated the budget was being amended to include State Metropolitan Planning grants and adjust for moving McGIS activities out of the MCRPC office. No change in the IDOT funding amount being proposed, and therefore, there was no need for an amended UWP or IDOT approval. She indicated professional services and salary were the two most affected line items.

Mr. Teichman moved the FY2017 budget be amended as proposed. Ms. Olson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Election of 2017 Officers

Ms. Jefferson called for nominations for the offices of chair, vice-chair, and member of executive committee. Mr. Teichman nominated Ms. Jefferson for chairman. Ms. Olson nominated Mr. Buragas for vice-chair. Mr. Gorman nominated himself for member of executive committee. Ms. Kramp nominated herself for member of executive committee. Ms. Jefferson declared the nominations closed. As acting chair, Mr. Buragas called for a vote for the office of chair, and Ms. Jefferson was unanimously elected. Ms. Jefferson called for a vote for the office of vice-chair, and Mr. Buragas was unanimously elected.

Ms. Jefferson asked the nominees for the position of member of executive committee to speak about their interest and qualification for the position. Mr. Gorman said he was passionate about planning, particularly transportation planning, and advised he was co-founder of Bike Blo-No. He said he thought serving on the Executive Committee would be a good fit for his background, and he would like to serve to help move the community forward. Ms. Kramp described her involvement on the Commission, and highlighted her family and community activities. Following a secret ballot election, Ms. Jefferson reported Mr. Gorman had been elected to the position. Mr. Teichman moved to approve the election of Mr. Gorman. Mr. Olson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Cancellation of Regularly Scheduled January and July 2017 Commission Meetings

Ms. Pinnamaraju reviewed the schedule of regularly-scheduled 2017 Commission meetings, and indicated the January and July meetings are typically cancelled due to holidays. Mr. Wylie moved to cancel the January and July, 2017 meetings. Mr. Kramp seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Items of Information or Discussion:

Staff Recognition

Ms. Pinnamaraju indicated that Khalid Hasan had been employed by the Commission for 10 years as GIS Director, and advised his position was being eliminated as McGIS activities were moving out of the Commission office. She complimented his work with the GIS consortium and thanked him for his service to the Commission.

Ms. Pinnamaraju reported that Teresa Casselman will be retiring in January after 20 years of service to the Commission, and thanked her for her service to the Commission. Ms. Pinnamaraju announced there would be an open house on her last day, January 6, starting at 2:00 p.m.

Ms. Pinnamaraju introduced Jordan Brown, who was hired for the position of Office Manager, replacing Ms. Casselman. She indicated Ms. Brown would start in her position January 6.

Announcement

Ms. Pinnamaraju announced she was leaving on vacation the following day and would be gone from the office for approximately four weeks.

Adjournment:

Mr. Gorman moved for adjournment. Ms. Kramp seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Casselman
Office Manager