

MINUTES

**McLEAN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING, WEDNESDAY, August 2nd, 2017, 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, Executive Committee Representative; Glen Ludwig; Linda Olson; Carl Teichman; Mary Kramp; Carl Olson; Tyler Wrezinski; Mark Wylie

Members Absent:

Joseph Cleary

Others Present:

McLean County Regional Planning Commission - Vasudha Pinnamaraju, Executive Director; Jennifer Sicks, Transportation Planner; Jamal Smith, Assistant Planner; Daniel Handel, Assistant Planner; Emily Lutz, Assistant Planner; Jordan Brown, Office Manager; Town of Normal – Taylor Long, Associate Planner; McLean County – Melissa Dougherty-O'Hara, Planner

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:

Ms. Olson inquired if the numbers in the new staff report correlated to something specific. Ms. Pinnamaraju explained that the numbers followed the work elements in the Unified Work Program (UWP). Ms. Jefferson recommended adding those numbers to the key in the next staff report.

Mr. Ludwig moved that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented. Mr. Buragas seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Regular Agenda:

Appointment of the Information Forum Subcommittee

Ms. Jefferson explained the need for a formal Information Forum Subcommittee. She also walked the commissioners through the purpose, guidelines, and procedures of the Subcommittee. Mr. Buragas recommended amending the procedures to reflect that the Chair/Vice Chair shall be appointed in the initial year and elected the following years. He also recommended amending member limit to 5 and the need to hold elections, should there be more interest. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Wylie moved to approve the formation of the Information Forum Subcommittee with amendments as proposed by Ms. Buragas. Mr. Buragas seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Jefferson, Mr. Teichman, Mr. Ludwig, Mr. Cleary, and Ms. Kramp expressed interest to be part of the Subcommittee. Ms. Jefferson then appointed Mr. Teichman as the Chair and Ms. Kramp as the Vice Chair.

Items of Information or Discussion:

Discussion on Staff Reporting

Ms. Pinnamaraju pointed to the new monthly report and explained that this new format allows for streamlining reporting procedures and increases accountability. Ms. Jefferson inquired if this new report will be accepted by IDOT. Ms. Pinnamaraju hoped it would be but clarified that she did not discuss the report with IDOT staff yet.

Mr. Ludwig inquired if the new website can be completed sooner than February of 2018 as stated in the report. Ms. Pinnamaraju responded that there is a need for research of best practices, particularly in regards to the dashboarding project and February is an aggressive timeline. Ms. Jefferson inquired how MCRPC would track projects that fall behind their schedule. Ms. Pinnamaraju said that the amended date and the original date will be on the report. Ms. Kramp requested the headings be clarified. Ms. Pinnamaraju said that MCRPC will make an additional key at the bottom of the report to help with this. Mr. Buragas asked for clarification of work element 3.1 and the Regional Technology Plan. Ms. Pinnamaraju explained that work element 3.1 covers all the planning efforts. Mr. Buragas recommended clarifying the phrase “ongoing”. Ms. Pinnamaraju agreed.

Mr. Gorman stated that he likes the new format and opined that it is easier to read.

2018 Information Forum

Mr. Teichman referenced back to the work element 5.2 on the Staff Report and said that MCRPC should work with the McLean County Chamber of Commerce for this next Information Forum. Mr. Gorman asked if the Chamber has been contacted regarding this. Mr. Teichman responded in affirmative. Ms. Jefferson inquired if the financial information was included. Mr. Teichman said that those details need to be clarified. He then explained that two topics had been discussed at the Subcommittee meeting, municipal financing and technology. He expanded on details of the two topics. He stated that they inclined to recommend technology as the topic. Mr. Olson inquired if it tied into the Smart City concept. Mr. Teichman and Ms. Pinnamaraju responded in affirmative. Mr. Teichman explained that the format of the Forum still needs to be discussed and that there were a few different ideas being discussed, a series being one of them.

Ms. Kramp pointed out that the partnership with the Chamber is for one (1) year and MCRPC would be in control of the topic and the speaker. Mr. Ludwig expressed that he was excited about the collaboration and also pointed out that this can create an opportunity to think

differently about the topic selection and the process. Mr. Olson expressed that he liked the idea of a series to keep the topic front and center and action oriented. Mr. Teichman explained the need to work harder to get the right audience at the event.

Ms. Pinnamaraju stated that the topic of technology will tie into the Technology Plan and can help educate the public on the real impacts new technologies can have on the cities. Ms. Jefferson added that there should be a focus on including the whole community and not just certain segments. Ms. Pinnamaraju agreed. Mr. Gorman added that partnering with the Chamber could bring in a business community. Mr. Teichman added that this topic sits well with the BN Advantage efforts.

Ms. Pinnamaraju explained that in September, the Subcommittee is expected to bring an official recommendation to the Commission.

Presentation on Sugar Access

Ms. Pinnamaraju explained that consistency forms have just been getting longer. To improve this, MCRPC is investigating CitiLabs' new product called Sugar Access. Ms. Kramp questioned if this is part of GIS. Ms. Pinnamaraju explained that GIS is the platform on which this product operates.

Mr. Handel made a brief presentation on Sugar Access. Mr. Handel and Ms. Pinnamaraju provided clarification throughout the process as questions were raised.

Adjournment:

Mr. Gorman moved for adjournment. Mr. Teichman seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jordan Brown
Office Manager