

APPROVED MINUTES
McLEAN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MCRPC) Meeting

WEDNESDAY, November 3rd, 2021, 4:00 P.M.

McLean County Law & Justice Center

104 W. Front St, Bloomington, Illinois

Room 702 and Virtual

Members Present:

In-Person – Mary Kramp, Chairperson; John Burrill, Vice-Chairperson; Jim Fruin; Stan Gozur;
Dr. Charles Irwin; Carl Teichman

Virtual – Bart Bittner*

Members Absent:

Jennifer Langley; Carl Olson; Michael Pettorini

Others Present:

MCRPC Staff – Raymond Lai; Tessa Ferraro; Cassidy Kraimer; Katie McShane*

Others – Patrick Hoban, CEO of Bloomington-Normal Economic Development Council

*Attended Virtually

1. Call To Order:

Ms. Kramp called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. and noted the presence of a quorum.

2. Attendance:

See above

3. Public Comment:

None

4. Consent Agenda:

- A.** Minutes of the September 1st, 2021 Commission meeting
- B.** Financial Reports
- C.** MCRPC Staff Report

Ms. Kramp called for a motion to approve the September 1, 2021 Minutes as presented.
Mr. Teichman moved for approval. Mr. Gozur seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Kramp called for a motion to approve the Financial Reports as presented. Mr.
Teichman moved for approval. Mr. Fruin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Kramp called for a motion to approve the MCRPC Staff Reports as presented. Dr. Irwin moved for approval. Mr. Gozur seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

5. Regular Agenda:

a. Items removed from the Consent Agenda (if any)

None

6. Items of Information or Discussion:

a. Presentation by Bloomington-Normal Economic Development Council (BNEDC)

Patrick Hoban, CEO of the BNEDC, presented a PowerPoint to the Commission Members. He explained what the BNEDC does, who they are and what their goals are. He spoke about the importance of the objectives of Resource Development, Business Development and Investment Development. He explained how each objective helps our economy expand and develop.

[Patrick's PowerPoint Presentation is attached]

[At 4:16 pm, Bart Bittner joined the meeting virtually]

Mr. Teichman, Ms. Kramp and Mr. Hoban discussed how housing shortages is a problem locally. Mr. Hoban explained if housing problems are presented to him, he would then come to Ray and the MCRPC staff to help, as housing shortages does not fall under BNEDC. Mr. Hoban did explain that they do have a project in place to update the sewer system.

Mr. Fruin asked if there is any data related to Rivian employees that are relocating to town and where they are living. Mr. Hoban discussed specific software that is available to track on cell phones. Reports can be run to see where Rivian employees travel to outside of work so they can gauge the number of people commuting to this area. This is important because as they try to gain more businesses it's important to know how far people are traveling and if they are staying locally.

Ms. Kramp & Mr. Hoban discussed the benefits of having regional airports available.

Ms. Kramp & Mr. Hoban discussed the next Census and how McLean County's population could change based on people commuting and working remotely.

Mr. Gozur & Mr. Hoban discussed the importance of including the school districts in work force preparations.

Mr. Hoban spoke about how COVID has affected our work force and the changes that many businesses have experienced due to the lack of interest in working.

b. Regional Housing Initiatives update

Ms. Ferraro explained that the Housing Assistance Coalition provided over \$4.5 million in rental assistance since May 2020. Although the State moratorium ended on October 3rd, there is still a court-based rental assistance program available that can cover up to 12 months of missed rent payments. Statewide, the initial allocation of the 2021 Emergency Rental Assistance has been fully disbursed to renters and landlords, totally \$505 million given to more than 57,000 households. On November 8th, a new round of rental assistance will begin. The State is also working on a mortgage assistance program that will be launching in the next few months.

Ms. Ferraro explained that MCRPC staff is awaiting feedback from the Regional Housing Staff Committee on the updated Affordable Housing Location Model. It will be a tool to help our housing partners evaluate the location of proposed affordable housing developments.

Ms. Ferraro explained that a Housing Resource Guide is being prepared by MCRPC staff. MCRPC Staff is awaiting feedback from the Regional Housing Staff Committee on the 2021 update to the Income Qualified Housing Issue 2: Type of Units and Vouchers white paper. A final draft will be posted on our website when ready.

[Interruption at 4:53 p.m- a Law & Justice Staff member interrupted to explain that the doors would be locked at 5:00 p.m and gave instructions on how to exit the building.]

Mr. Fruin asked who the primary, local members are that we work with on the Housing Initiatives. Ms. Ferraro answered there are members on the different committees from the City of Bloomington, Town of Normal, Public Housing Authorities, other housing associates, such as non-profits like PATH, Chestnut, and Prairie State Legal.

Mr. Teichman commented that these housing initiatives are different then the housing initiatives that Patrick brought up during his presentation. Mr. Teichman explained that Patrick was not talking about people who couldn't afford housing. Mr. Lai explained the Regional Housing Initiative deals primarily with affordable housing, and what Patrick was explaining was more market-rate housing.

c. Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER) Project update

Mr. Lai explained that the consultant for the PASER project has been collecting a lot of data research. The consultant's next steps are to train the staff at the Town of Normal, provide data analysis, making recommendations and creating scenarios for different funding conditions. They are currently working on the draft report that is expected to be completed in December 2021.

d. Bloomington-Normal Wireless Infrastructure Guidelines (5G) Project update

Mr. Lai explained that the consultants have been working and are expected to provide their draft report in the next couple weeks. The draft report will be shared with staff members at the City of Bloomington and Town of Normal for review and comments.

Mr. Burrill asked if this relates to the infrastructure of the 5G internet. Mr. Lai explained that this is for installation of the 5G antennas and equipment, as well as recommending strategies and regulations in making them aesthetically pleasing with the surroundings.

Mr. Burrill asked if this will make broadband more available for families who don't currently have it. Mr. Lai answered that is not one of the regional objectives for this project, but with the pandemic there is a lot more public funding available for qualified families to be able to access broadband.

e. Vision Zero/Go:Safe McLean County Action Plan Project update

Mr. Lai explained that he, Jenn and the consultants for this project presented their plan at the American Planning conference that was recently held in Normal, and the presentation was well received. They are currently making themselves available to educate the different groups of the public. They are formulating the next steps for implementation of the plan. In order to implement, more funding opportunities need to be identified.

Ms. Kramp asked about the grant MCRPC recently applied for and awarded. Mr. Lai explained that staff recently applied for and was awarded the very competitive federal RAISE grant to re-envision and re-invent Veterans Parkway with focuses on safety, sustainability, and equity. However that was not a specific grant for the Go:Safe Action Plan but related to.

e. That which may arise

Mr. Lai explained that some of the 2020 Census data is being released. General numbers have already been released; this includes population data of municipalities and countries. There is a map available on our website that shows the changes in population for McLean County from 2010 to 2020. This was also shown at the meeting along with a table of population figures.

Mr. Lai also explained that MCRPC is currently hiring for two Community Planners and one Assistant Planner to fill the vacancies.

7. Adjournment:

Ms. Kramp called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Burrill moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Teichman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie McShane
Office Manager/Executive Assistant