

MINUTES
McLEAN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, March 6th, 2018, 4:00 P.M.
GOVERNMENT CENTER, ROOM 404
115 EAST WASHINGTON STREET, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

Members Present:

Carl Teichman, Chair; Mary Kramp, Vice-Chair; Jim Fruin, Executive Committee Representative; Bart Bittner; John Burrill; Mary Jefferson; Mark Wylie; Carl Olson

Members Absent:

Kelly Pyle

Others Present:

McLean County Regional Planning Commission staff - Jordan Brown, Office Manager; Vasudha Gadhiraju, Executive Director; Jennifer Sicks, Transportation Planner; Lauren Gibson, Community Planner; Alyssa Cooper, Community Planner; Teresa Anderson, Assistant Planner; Scott Diveley, Intern; Town of Normal – Taylor Long, Associate Planner; McLean County – Michelle Anderson, County Auditor; WGLT – Bobby Castillo; Other – Bryson Dowdle

Call To Order:

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

Mr. Teichman took a moment to introduce and welcome Mr. Bittner to the Commission. Mr. Bittner stated that he will be representing McLean County on the Commission followed by his brief introduction of himself.

Public Comment:

None

Consent Agenda:

Ms. Gadhiraju noted that the financials were in a different format than previous packets. She also announced that when the packet was sent out, some items in the financials (IMRF and Social Security) had not been entered yet. An updated financial report was provided at

the meeting. She also announced that Ms. Anderson (McLean County Auditor) was available to answer any questions the Commissioners might have on this new format. No questions arose.

Ms. Kramp wanted the minutes to reflect her concern for the safety of pedestrians on the crosswalk from the parking lot to the commercial buildings in College Plaza.

Mr. Teichman called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Olson moved for approval with Ms. Kramp's addition. Ms. Kramp seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Regular Agenda:

Add one (1) additional full-time position to MCRPC staff. Job category Planner 1 – Asst. Planner

Ms. Gadhiraju reminded the Commission about the new revenue sources and projects that were added to the staff workload this year. Existing MCRPC staff has done a good job at balancing those additional projects with their previous projects. However, after an entire year later, it is clear that addition of a full-time staff is needed to sustainably conduct the agreed upon work per grant requirements. Mr. Wylie stated that he was under the assumption that Ms. Gadhiraju's position was the only one that the Commission needed to vote on. He then questioned why this was brought to the Commission. Ms. Gadhiraju responded that the Commission approves the total number of full-time staff (FTE's). Management of those FTE's fall under the Executive Director's authority. Mr. Wylie inquired if this position was accounted for in the current budget. Ms. Gadhiraju responded in affirmative and clarified that part-time staff were used until now.

Mr. Teichman called for a motion to approve to add one (1) additional full time position to MCRPC staff. Mr. Burrill moved for approval to add one (1) additional full time position to MCRPC staff. Mr. Fruin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Cancellation of regularly scheduled April 2019 Commission meeting

Mr. Teichman requested that the April 2019 Commission meeting be cancelled due to there being a very small agenda, the information forum is in April, and Ms. Gadhiraju will be away at a conference.

Mr. Teichman called for a motion to approve the cancellation of the April 2019 meeting. Ms. Jefferson moved to approve the cancellation of the April 2019 meeting. Ms. Kramp seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Items of Information or Discussion:Town of Normal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) review

Mr. Long provided an overview of the Town of Normal's CDBG 2019-2020 Action Plan. He explained a list of programs they expect to provide funding to: 1) public services dollars will be used for the Unity Community Center and PATH; 2) down payment assistance dollars will be used to help income qualified people in town to purchase a home; 3) public facilities and improvement dollars will be used for street resurfacing and sidewalk reconstruction; and 4) administration dollars will be used for regional housing initiatives and consolidated plan. He noted that these dollars can only be used in the Town of Normal.

Mr. Teichman reminded the Commission that this is just information and no action needs to be taken. Mr. Long noted that a 30 day comment period started March 1st, 2019. Mr. Teichman questioned when town council will approve the CDBG. Mr. Long responded that with the government shut down it could be as late as August but as early as May.

Ms. Kramp questioned why CDBG fund is predicted to drop in FY 2020. Ms. Gadhiraju explained that CDBG has been dropping every year by community. She added that the pot of money has not been growing over the years but more and more communities are becoming eligible for that money, and hence the reduction.

Information Forum Updates

Ms. Cooper provided a brief update to the Commission. She noted that MCRPC and McLean County Chamber of Commerce staff are working hard reaching out to organizations for attendance and sponsorships. She also announced that the Tech Talk (which takes place the night before the Forum) will be in a different format than in previous years. Ms. Gadhiraju added that the Tech Talk will not just be a presentation by the speaker but it will be a panel of experts (representatives from the Illinois Autonomous Vehicles Association and AutonomouStuff) along with the speaker this year. The panel will provide an overview of where this topic is going and how we get there.

Mr. Teichman inquired what role Rivian was playing in the forum this year. Ms. Gadhiraju responded that they will be in attendance. She then asked that the Commissioners start spreading the word about the Information Forum.

Rural Planning Grants

Ms. Gadhiraju announced that MCRPC has turned in an application to receive a grant for \$40,000 for rural planning efforts. A contract has not been signed yet but conversations with IDOT have been very positive about this grant. Rural planning is a strategic priority for MCRPC staff. Mr. Olson inquired where the funding would be coming from. Ms. Gadhiraju responded that the funding would be from the State Planning grants. There is a Rural

Planning grant but those go out every 2 years and we missed the last Notice of Funding Announcement (NOFA) in 2017.

That which may arise

None.

Adjournment:

Mr. Teichman called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Wylie moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Jefferson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jordan Brown
Office Manager