

MINUTES
McLEAN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, May 1, 2019, 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; Mary Jefferson; Mark Wylie; Carl Olson; Kelly Pyle

Members Absent:

John Burrill

Others Present:

McLean County Regional Planning Commission staff - Jordan Brown, Office Manager; Vasudha Gadhiraaju, Executive Director; Jennifer Sicks, Transportation Planner; Lauren Gibson, Community Planner; Alyssa Cooper, Community Planner; Teresa Anderson, Assistant Planner; City of Bloomington – Jennifer Toney, Grants Coordinator; Other – Jeanne Moonan, James Kozak, Carmel Kozak, Deanna Frautschi, Georgi Baird, Ken Baird, Diana Hauman

Call To Order:

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

Public Comment:

None

Consent Agenda:

Mr. Teichman called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Bittner moved for approval. Ms. Kramp seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Regular Agenda:

Greenways Fall/Winter Photo Contest awards

Ms. Gadhiraaju recognized some Greenways Advisory Committee (GAC) members in attendance and requested that Ms. Frautschi (the GAC chairperson) to join her. Ms. Frautschi gave a brief background on the Greenways Advisory Committee and the subcommittees and the purpose of the photo contest. Ms. Gadhiraaju then announced the winners in various categories and Mr. Teichman and Ms. Frautschi presented the awards.

Formation of the Complete Count Committee for the 2020 Census

Ms. Gadhiraju gave a brief explanation about the need for a Complete Count Committee and invited Ms. Gibson to talk about the Census 2020. Ms. Gibson noted some challenges with Census 2020 including the fact that it will be majority digital. The proposed committee would include different organizations (businesses, philanthropy, church based organizations, government, etc.) to ensure that everyone in McLean County gets counted.

Ms. Jefferson inquired what steps are being taken to work with the local libraries or churches. Ms. Gibson responded that staff has already met with an ad hoc group where the libraries are represented. Ms. Gadhiraju added that rural libraries are also included in that group as well.

Mr. Teichman called for a motion to approve the formation of the McLean County Complete Count Committee for the 2020 Census. Mr. Wylie moved to approve the formation of the Complete Count Committee for the 2020 Census. Ms. Kramp seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Items of Information or Discussion:

City of Bloomington Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) review

Ms. Toney provided an overview of the City of Bloomington's CDBG 2019-2020 Action Plan. She explained a list of programs they expect to provide funding to: 1) housing rehabilitation dollars will be used for homeowner loans/grant and grants to Bloomington Housing Authority and Habitat for Humanity; 2) rehabilitation service delivery; 3) administration dollars will be used for Section 3 training, MCRPC planner, Fair Housing program, and general administration; 4) demolition program; 5) public service dollars will go to Path, Peace Meals, Recycling Furniture for Families, and WBRP; 6) Dimmitt's Grove sidewalk project; 7) Heartland Head Start entrance; 8) MCCA security system; and 8) WBRP façade program. She noted that these dollars can only be used in the City of Bloomington.

Ms. Gadhiraju thanked Ms. Toney, Mr. Long, Ms. Gibson and Ms. Crowley (not in attendance) and others for their work on the first Bloomington and Normal Consolidated Plan due next year. Ms. Toney noted that the City of Bloomington will be partnering with Prairie State Legal Services to kick off the Fair Housing Program.

Draft FY2020 Unified Work Program (UWP)

Ms. Gadhiraju reminded the Commission that the change in MCRPC fiscal year resulted in moving the Overall Work Program (OWP) to be approved in October or November of the year. The UWP is shared with the Commissioners as a best practice but will be officially approved by the MPO technical and policy committees. She noted one major difference in the FY2020 UWP compared to years past, which is that there is no indirect rate. Ms. Gadhiraju said that this new practice will allow MCRPC staff to use their General Administration time to be billed directly.

2019 Information Forum Recap

Mr. Teichman thanked the MCRPC staff for their hard work on the Information Forum. He then noted that 166 registered for the event and 143 attended. He also noted that all of the feedback that he has received was positive. Mr. Olson added that it was a very helpful and timely event, not just for the community but also for the airport. Ms. Gadhiraju thanked Ms. Cooper and Ms. Brown for their hard work behind the scenes and the Subcommittee who helped with outreach and organization.

Mr. Teichman inquired about the partnership with the McLean County Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Gadhiraju noted that the partnership has been great but the attendance is still between 100 & 200. This isn't from lack of trying, this event is just a different type of event. Mr. Teichman questioned if there are ideas for next year's forum. Ms. Gadhiraju responded in affirmation noting that AI in the workplace has been suggested. Mr. Teichman inquired when the Subcommittee will be meeting. Ms. Gadhiraju responded that they will be meeting soon. She also added that if any of the Commissioners have any ideas for next year's forum to send those to herself or Ms. Brown.

Mr. Wylie inquired how the event worked out financially. Ms. Brown answered that she should know more in the upcoming weeks. There are still some items that are being wrapped up but she would submit a report as soon as she knows more.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) survey discussion

Ms. Gibson provided an overview of the Consolidated Plan with the City of Bloomington and the Town of Normal. She then presented preliminary findings from the survey responses so far. She noted that street and sidewalk improvements, homeless facilities, and health and mental health services definitely rose to the top as needs in these surveys. She added that the survey will be up through the end of June and that staff from MCRPC, Bloomington, and Normal have been attending community events all around the area.

Ms. Kramp questioned if this money is coming from CDBG. Ms. Gadhiraju and Ms. Gibson responded in affirmation. Ms. Kramp inquired if the prevailing wage provision was on individuals. Ms. Gibson said that prevailing wage provisions did not apply to individuals. Mr. Bittner inquired if this survey would show if people are aware that some programs exist. Ms. Gibson responded in affirmation adding that they are hoping to do focus groups as well that will be able to tell more than just the survey. Mr. Bittner questioned if eligibility for CDBG is also provided in rural communities. Ms. Gadhiraju responded in negative and noted that there are other statewide agencies that receive funding to help communities who do not receive entitlement grants like CDBG. Mr. Bittner inquired on the history of the survey effort. Ms. Gadhiraju responded that this is the first time MCRPC is involved but Bloomington and Normal have done this on their own in years past.

Mr. Wylie questioned who the target audience is. Ms. Gibson and Ms. Gadhiraju responded that population who can benefit from CDBG programs is the primary target and the

community at large is the secondary target. Mr. Wylie inquired if Commissioners should take the survey. Ms. Gibson and Ms. Gadhiraju responded in affirmative. Mr. Wylie noted that it would be interesting to see the different demographics for the responses. Ms. Gibson responded that there is a question at the end that asks respondents to provide their address or closest intersection and with that information she would be able to create a heat map.

Mr. Fruin inquired if neighborhood associations have been contact. Ms. Gibson responded that there is a stakeholder survey that went out to all of the neighborhood associations. She added that some focus groups are in the works for the more targeted neighborhoods.

That which may arise

Mr. Teichman announced that as of right now, there will be a July meeting.

Mr. Teichman added that the Ecology Action Center is hosting a farewell event for Michael Gorman on May 8th. Ms. Gadhiraju added that the invite is for anyone who has worked with him. Ms. Brown noted that she would send the information out.

Ms. Gadhiraju thanked Mr. Fruin for being extremely instrumental in getting a meeting together with the Bloomington Normal Realtors Association and MCRPC to discuss data. Mr. Fruin noted that there are only three staff members and one is leaving so he would like to see the wheel still turning.

Adjournment:

Mr. Teichman called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Jefferson moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bittner seconded the motion, which passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jordan Brown
Office Manager